



ite

Vol. 5, No. 1, February 2013

The legal eagle has landed at Brock

Bold New Brock campaign gets even bolder

A distinguished alumni trades the boardroom for the Bruce Trail

Alumni 2.0: New kiosk brings alumni into the digital age

Catching up with a national championship team 20 years later

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Surgite brocku.ca/surgite

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

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On March 10, 2009 Brock President Jack Lightstone, along with alumni, partners, friends, faculty, staff, and students publicly launched the most ambitious capital campaign in our history.

The Campaign for a Bold New Brock was designed to raise \$75 million by December 2012 to enhance the student



David Petis

learning experience, share knowledge and open doors, and improve our student learning environment through the physical expansion of our facilities, and to empower educator-researchers and innovators by attracting and retaining top-notch faculty members.

I am proud to report that as of Nov. 26, 2012, Brock University garnered \$85 million in support of its Bold New Brock campaign, exceeding the original goal by \$10 million and doing it ahead of schedule.

President Lightstone also announced that we are not going to stop now. Brock is extending the campaign to December 2015 with a new cumulative goal of \$110 million. In President Lightstone's words, "It is driven by the motivation of our partners to assist Brock, and also by the unmet and growing need that still exists. We must remain committed to sustaining our momentum to positively impact the cultural, social and economic well-being of Brock, Niagara and Canada."

In addition to investing in the student learning experience, improving the student learning environment and empowering educator-researchers, the campaign has an even loftier goal of strengthening Brock's relationships with its alumni, benefactors, governments and the community to create invaluable academic assets that will benefit Niagara and all Canadians economically, socially and culturally for generations to come.

We are very proud that the vast majority of the 14,000 campaign gifts have come from alumni, Brock faculty, staff and students. It has been amazing to see the support of so many help raise the level of philanthropy at Brock. We have accomplished a great deal as you will see in the campaign highlights in the story 'Boldly Going' on page 4 of this issue.

We still have work to do. You are the foundation of our success today and tomorrow.



David Petis Vice-President, University Advancement



BoldlyGoing

The Matheson Learning Commons was one of the many new additions to the Brock campus made possible by the Bold New Brock campaign.

Brock's International Centre opened in June 2010, thanks to the Bold New Brock campaign.



When Canada Research Chair Wendy Ward came to Brock in 2011, she couldn't wait for the new Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex to be built.

Each morning, Ward would drive by the construction site and imagine what her future lab in the complex would look like.

Last May, Ward — whose research looks at how novel food components make bones healthier and stronger, and works to reduce risks of developing osteoporosis or experiencing fragility fractures — finally got see how the images in her mind's eye compared to reality.

"Those who know me best know that it takes something really special to leave me speechless," Ward says. "When I stood in the lab on level four of the Cairns Complex for the first time, I was just that — speechless — and honestly, I was overwhelmed with emotion."

Ward was "struck by the true beauty of the lab" with its open spaces and brightness. But, aesthetics aside, she immediately saw the potential within the complex's walls and the greatness that could be achieved there, including fostering future leaders in health-related fields.

It's a dream, though, that wouldn't have come true if not for the Bold New Brock campaign that the University launched in March 2009. Its goal was to raise enough funds to build facilities, including the Cairns Complex and the Matheson Learning Commons, that would bring out the best in faculty and students alike.

So far \$85 million has been raised (\$10 million more than the original goal), thanks to 14,000 donors in an era when the Canadian economy has been soft. Besides supporting 185 new student awards and 13 new athletic awards, the



campaign has also led to more than 25 newly named spaces and programs, including the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Complex and the Goodman School of Business.

It also doubled Brock's endowment fund from \$28.6 million in 2008 to \$59 million today.

"We are extremely grateful to the advocates, donors and supporters who believe in Brock, and

whose generosity and vision is enabling the University to be an increasingly important tool for the betterment of Niagara and beyond," Brock President Jack Lightstone says. "All of this was done with faculty, staff, alunmi and students being our foundation from which to build."

But Lightstone says the University's continued growth has resulted in "unmet needs", and for that reason the Bold New Brock campaign has been extended to 2015 with a new goal of \$110 million.

Money raised will support the development of new teaching and learning opportunities, providing more options to faculty and students. Five new research institutes that span multiple disciplines are also being created to develop economic opportunity and transition in Niagara.

Continued support is also required for the new Walker School, for which construction will begin this year, as well as the Cairns Complex and the Goodman School of Business, which needs a new building.

"We must remain committed to sustaining our momentum to positively impact the cultural, social and economic well-being of Brock, Niagara and Canada," Lightstone says.

For more information or to donate to the campaign, visit brocky ca/bold-new-brock

The Bold New Brock campaign surpasses its initial goal and keeps going

An artist's rendering of the new home of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in downtown St. Catharines.

Dawn of a new era: Sunrise at the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex.



5

Blazingatrail in business and beyond

By Lori Littleton

Fred Losani has a bit of an aversion to boards and community groups.

When the owner and CEO of Losani Homes in Stoney Creek decided he needed more than just work to feel satisfied and successful, he tried to find an outlet on various boards dedicated to making his community better.

Instead, Losani (BAdmin '87) found some people around the table were in it for themselves, taking advantage of others rather than serving the cause and the greater good. That's when Losani decided there had to be other ways to commit to his community and have an impact.

So, in 2006, he took his efforts from the boardroom to the North Pole for three weeks and embarked on the first of several treks to raise money for different charities.

"I thought, maybe this is what it's all about, how to put some gas back in the tank, to find some motivation and dedication and we've continued to do the same kind of treks," Losani says.

In the years since, Losani has tackled a trek and ruthless weather in the South Pole in 2008 and, last October, he walked the 885-kilometre Bruce Trail, end to end in 30 days with three friends. Together, they raised more than \$3 million for children's charities in Hamilton.

Losani's dedication to his community and his business acumen — Losani Homes has been one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies since 2007 — haven't gone unnoticed by his alma mater. Losani was named this year's Goodman School of Business distinguished graduate.

"I was surprised by it and was thrilled to be able to represent our family," he says.

Losani is the 11th recipient of the award, which recognizes individuals' outstanding professional, educational, community, volunteer or entrepreneurial achievements.

"Mr. Losani is a well-respected businessman, whose company, Losani Homes, has won many awards," says Don Cyr, Dean of the School of Business. "In addition to his business success, he is passionate about philanthropy and adventure, and his philosophy – that helping the children of today builds a better future – is one that Fred has built into his personal and corporate values, and one that makes him truly a distinguished grad."

Since its founding in 1976 by Losani's father and brother, Losani Homes has grown into a developer, commercial design-build contractor and property manager. The company primarily builds in Niagara, Hamilton, Halton, Brant County and Kitchener-Waterloo, with plans to expand into the GTA in the next 20 months. Losani Homes has 130 full-time employees and works with 1,200 to 1,400 contractors at any given time.

Losani joined the family business as a partner in 1985 while attending Brock, where he met his wife Shelly, who graduated in 1986.



"Before I enrolled in university, I had made my mind up as to where I would apply myself," he says. "Once I got past the first year, Brock was like a graduate school for me because I was applying every day what I was learning."

Learning also figures prominently into Losani's philanthropy. His trekking team educates students about their charity expeditions. Most recently on the Bruce Trail hike, the quartet used technology to create interactive opportunities for elementary and high school students both on and off the trail. The kids "walked" with them en route and talked with them via satellite phone, learning about the importance of proper nutrition, healthy living and preserving the Bruce Trail.

All of it comes from Losani's desire to make meaningful change for his community.

"Once you've reached some goals, personal and corporate, and you've seen things through some tough periods, you end up at a particular point where you're looking for more reasons to show up to work," he says.

Lori Littleton is a freelance writer from St. Catharines.



Namechanger Faculty of Business becomes Goodman School

of Business after transformational donation



Brock University

Just saying and hearing the new name of Brock's business faculty has students and alumni alike revelling in the possibility that a title with such cachet brings to the University.

As the Goodman School of

Business, there's the prospect of further growth and easy brand recognition for the faculty, making business studies at Brock an even easier sell to prospective students.

For most of her four years as a business administration student, Marcela Cuenca says she envied the business schools known by name and dreamed it would happen for Brock, given the strength of the programs offered here.

"People know about schools with names," says Cuenca, president of the Brock Business Students' Association. "You hear of Schulich (Business School at York University) all the time. You hear of DeGroote (School of Business at McMaster) all the time. You don't hear about the Faculty of Business of Brock.

"This has just completely changed the game for us." This marks the first time Brock has renamed one of its faculties. The new moniker is for the family of Ned Goodman, the businessman and investment expert who has been the University's chancellor for the past five years, after the Goodman Foundation made a transformational gift to the school.

Goodman, himself, has also agreed to serve as an adjunct professor at the school, providing future students access to his many years of business and investment experience.

Like Cuenca, alumni Jason Sparaga (BBA '93) says renaming of the faculty is pivotal. Sparaga, president of Spara Capital Partners, said the school could now potentially build a new business complex and expand its programming to match its reputation "as a stalwart in the accounting profession."

Goodman spent more than 40 years as a securities analyst, portfolio manager and senior executive, forming the Dundee group of financial companies in the 1990s.

Goodman, who holds degrees from McGill University (BSc) and the University of Toronto (MBA), was also awarded an honorary doctorate by Concordia University.

In 2005, he received the Career Achievement Award at the Canadian Investment Awards. Last year, he was inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame and was the recipient of the Fraser Institute's T. Patrick Boyle Founder's Award.

"In terms of the financial industry, it doesn't get better (than with) the Goodman name," says Bryson Dodge (BBA '08, MBA '10), who works at RBC in commercial banking.





Discover fellow alumni by swiping through class photos or use the search to find classmates



ALUMNI:

Brockgoesdigital

Alumni digital library provides new way to highlight graduates

By Nancy Di Pasquale

Year after year, Brock continues to demonstrate its growth in innovative ways. Most recently, it broke new ground with the unveiling of its alumni digital library and interactive kiosk.

Located in the lobby of the Schmon Tower, the digital kiosk is a virtual catalogue of Brock alumni. Thanks to two accessible, wall-mounted touch screens with high-definition graphics, campus visitors can easily find digital photos of graduates searching by name, class year or department.

The kiosk also provides information on alumni-related events and awards, and enables graduates to update their contact information with the University directly from the kiosk.

"The kiosk is engaging, playful and informative," says Laurence Roberts, principal at Forge Media + Design, the



To view a demo of the Alumni Digital Library, see our tablet edition at, brocku.ca/surgite

Toronto firm that worked with Brock to produce the digital library software.

The kiosk's ease of use and modern design weren't the only reasons for upgrading to this format. The digital library will replace the traditional, framed graduate composite photos hanging on the walls throughout Brock's campus.

Many of Brock's newer facilities, with their hallways of glass, can't accommodate framed photo displays. And as the number of grads continues to grow, finding wall space to display the photos has become a challenge.

The size of graduating classes has also changed. The first class in 1967 had fewer than 100 graduates compared to more than 3,500 in 2012.

"As graduating classes continue to grow, each graduate photo within class composites becomes smaller and smaller, making it hard to recognize class members displayed on a wall," says Christine Jones, Director of Alumni Relations. "Given the popularity of tablets and touch screens, this platform makes finding and viewing members of the class easy."

Brock Alumni Relations spearheaded the creation of the alumni digital library and interactive kiosk with various partners contributing to its development, including Brock IT Services, Forge Media, Cinema Stage, Luxart eStudios, Brock Facilities Management, Brock University Student's Union and Brock University Alumni Association.

"We are thrilled to be a founding partner in this exciting initiative," says Christopher Capredoni (BBA '91), Brock University Alumni Association president. "As a key stakeholder, we recognize the importance of this revolutionary method of recording and highlighting alumni."

Most of the photos must go through a labour-intensive, multi-step process to be converted from print to high-quality digital images. Photos must also be restored and resized.

The digital library project is a work in progress. Currently, graduates from 2010 and 2011 can be viewed, with more classes being added in the months ahead.

Brock Alumni Relations will provide updates on which classes have been added to the library via the alumni website and Brock News. Once all class photos have been added, decisions will be made about the fate of the existing photographs hanging throughout campus, many of which have deteriorated over the years from exposure to sunlight.



Screen capture of the new digital library highlighting past Brock graduates.

The alumni digital library and interactive kiosk not only serves as a platform from which to profile Brock graduates, but it also engages and informs current and future graduates about how to stay connected to their alma mater.

"Being a graduate is a lifetime title," Jones says. "We see the kiosk as a cutting edge bridge that forges new relationships and keeps students and graduates connected to Brock."

Nancy Di Pasquale (BA'92) is the marketing communications officer for Alumni Relations at Brock University.





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Waterworld

Alumna helps bring international competitions – and a new economy–to Welland

By Samantha Craggs

As a post-industrial town still stinging from decades of closing factories and job losses, Welland hasn't always had a lot to brag about.

Now it does and Sarah Smith (BA '04) is a part of that. The sport management grad is moving back to Niagara in February to act as the new assistant general manager of Canoe Niagara 2013. By helping plan events, such as the 2013 International Canoe Federation (ICF) Junior and Under 23 Canoe Sprint World Championships, Smith is helping to revitalize a community.

"This is bringing international status to Welland, really," Smith says. "We hope to recruit more and more international events to the area and make us high profile."

Smith will help develop and organize the various world championships hosted at the new Welland International Flatwater Centre, a "living lab" that has hosted numerous Brock researchers and co-op students, says Stephen Fischer, the centre's executive director and president of Canoe Niagara. Over the next three years, events hosted there are expected to bring \$48 million into the previously beleaguered community. The ICF event from Aug. 1 to 4 will bring 1,200 athletes from 55 countries.

Smith's tasks are numerous. She's in charge of finding a venue for the ceremony. She's finding accommodations for coaches and athletes. She's in charge of doping control and volunteers, and all the protocols for the competition that is a stepping stone to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Sport management professor Cheri Bradish, who taught Smith at Brock, doesn't doubt her former student is up to the work ahead.

"She was always very committed to amateur sport and Canadian sport policy," Bradish says. "It's a good fit and good for the (Sport Management program) to have alumni working in our own backyard."

Smith is ready for the job. A native of Blenheim, Ont., she took up figure skating at age five, which started a lifelong interest in sport. She chose Brock for its sport management program and its figure skating team. She was a varsity skater at Brock from 2000 to 2004.

After Brock, she earned a master's degree in sports administration from the University of Ottawa, where she also worked as a venue co-ordinator for Skate Canada. From there, she landed a job as the canoe sprint services manager



Sarah Smith (BA'04) worked at the 2012 Summer Games in London and is coming back to Niagara as assistant general manager of Canoe Niagara.

with the London Organizing Committee of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

She and her husband Ron moved from England to Niagara in February. She's looking forward to promoting what Welland has to offer, and drawing more athletes and tourists to the city of 50,000.

Everyone is looking forward to that, Mayor Barry Sharpe says. Globalization and factory closures have knocked the community down a few times, but it's coming back thanks to the gentle waters of the scenic recreational waterway — an abandoned alignment of the Welland Canal.

"The development of our recreational waterway is an opportunity for us to rebrand the city," he says.

"Like so many industrial areas, we've struggled with the transition from a heavy industrial base and how we define our community. Our recreational waterway is a resource that's developable."

Sport tourism generates \$600 billion per year worldwide, Fischer says. And Welland is getting a piece of that. In 2006, the city hosted eight events tied to the waterway. In 2011, there were 30.

Smith hasn't been in Niagara since she graduated from Brock. But she says she's ready to return.

"I'm really looking forward to moving back to the area and moving back to Canada," she says.

Samantha Craggs is a freelance writer from Hamilton, Ont. She is also a reporter at CBC Hamilton.



By Doug Junke

When renowned lawyer Edward Greenspan (LLD '12) stepped into a Brock University classroom for the first time in January, it was with fond memories and high expectations.

"I've taught at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Law School for many years but I have never taught an undergraduate course. I'm looking at it as a new adventure," said Greenspan, the newest addition to Brock's political science teaching staff.

"I had to go to the University of Toronto because there was no Brock. But when I returned here to receive an honorary degree (in 2012), I saw what an important institution had been built. Brock had grown into a top-flight university. I wanted to be a part of it.

"It's a nostalgic trip back to my roots," the Niagara Falls native enthused. "We'll be dealing with young, inquisitive students at a vibrant school in my home area."

Besides being Canada's most famous criminal lawyer, the 69-year-old Greenspan has also made his mark as a journalist, author, television host, legal commentator and social advocate.

Edward Greenspan, Canada's most famous lawyer, returns to Niagara to teach at Brock

He has stood before packed courtrooms to defend everyone from former Nova Scotia Premier Gerald Regan to businessmen Conrad Black and Karlheinz Schreiber, and participated in Canada's leading death penalty case, Burns and Rafay.

Now he has brought his passion to Brock, where he is teaching a 12-week credit course to 20 of the University's top students for the 2013 winter term. The students are fourth-year undergraduates, mostly from the public law stream in the Department of Political Science.

The course — the Canadian Criminal Justice System — is a seminar examining how criminal policy is developed and operates within the broader Canadian political system, said Pierre Lizee, chair of the Department of Political Science.

Each week, a landmark criminal case is analyzed in that light. Guests, including criminologists, judges and prosecutors, take part in some of the discussions.

"Our students realize that this is a unique opportunity offered to them, a chance to work with Canada's best-known lawyer, and to explore with him cases where, quite often, he was personally involved," Lizee said.

Greenspan said the purpose is a better awareness of not just what current governments are doing, but what governments in general do with respect to crime.

"At the end, students should have a deeper understanding of the rule of law and how it fits into our society," he said.

The course looks at the good "but also all the flaws." There will be discussions of issues that the students would never have considered before, he added.

"We'll be talking about how the system works. For the students, it will be an eye-opening experience. There is (also) a lot in it for me. I've always thought teaching was important. And I always thought it was an important part of our profession."

University officials hailed Greenspan's arrival at Brock.

"We were thrilled to be able to offer our students the opportunity to learn from, and with, one of Canada's great legal minds and dynamic personalities," said Thomas Dunk, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Lizee said students are extremely excited.









To view Edward Greenspan's convocation address see our tablet edition.



"This seminar allows students to interact in a personal and direct way with Ed Greenspan," he said, "and benefit from his insights as they develop their own positions on current legal questions."

Brock President Jack Lightstone called Greenspan's course "tremendous news, not just because of his international reputation for excellence in his field, but also because he is from Niagara, and Brock is proud to help him give back to our community."

The course began seven months after Brock presented Greenspan with an honorary doctorate at the 2012 spring convocation.

Returning to Brock has taken Greenspan full circle. He was born on Feb. 28, 1944 in Niagara Falls. Twenty years later, Brock first opened its doors in September 1964 with 127 students.

"Had I finished high school two years later, or if Brock had opened one year earlier, I would have had my degree from Brock in 1967," Greenspan told the audience at the convocation ceremony.

"Unlike all of you who got your degree in the normal period of time, I've had to wait for 45 years until today to say, like you, that I have a degree from Brock. And you know what? It was worth the wait.

"To be able to say that not only am I a graduate of the Niagara Falls Collegiate but also Brock gives me great pleasure."

Greenspan earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Toronto in 1965 and was a practising criminal lawyer by 1970.

"It wasn't easy then," he told the rapt convocation audience. "At the end of the first 12 months, I had a serious discussion with my wife, Suzy, about the possibility of moving back to Niagara Falls — my hometown, not hers.

"I knew it was impossible then to practice criminal law exclusively in Niagara Falls, that I would have to do all kinds of different areas of law to make a living and that, unfortunately, Toronto was the only place where somebody had the chance to successfully practice only criminal law.

"But I had only generated \$3,100 in fees that first year. I was not quite an epic failure, but I was definitely the biggest failure I knew. I was convinced that my only realistic option was to return to Niagara Falls, give up my dream of becoming a criminal lawyer and do real estate and run a general law practice."

He related how Suzy offered tremendous encouragement. "She said, 'Don't give up. Let's give it one more year. If it doesn't' work, you go back to Niagara Falls.' We are still together 44 years later, and in Toronto."

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



General Brock's October Soirée. The event, held on Oct. 11, 2012, brought together 350 alumni and friends in support of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and

Attendees enjoyed a multi-course meal and local wines as student actors, musicians and faculty from the MIWSFPA provided lively entertainment. Soirée's theme was in keeping with bicentennial celebrations marking the War of 1812 and the anniversary of Maj.-General Sir Isaac Brock's death. Actor Guy Bannerman, who portrayed the war hero, made a grand entrance and was heralded for his lively, tongue-in-cheek performance. As a keepsake, guests received a commemorative War of 1812 coin.

This year's Soirée was also marked by a special announcement made by Brock's President and Vice-Chancellor, Jack Lightstone. Midway through the evening, he announced the renaming of the Faculty of Business to the Goodman School of Business. This is the first time a faculty has been renamed in Brock's history. "We are doing this as the result of transformational support from the family foundation of Ned Goodman, our Chancellor and longtime friend of the University," President Lightstone said. The following morning, a formal announcement was made, and a significant milestone for Brock was reached.

Throughout its five-year history, General Brock's October Soirée, the University's premiere fundraising event, has raised nearly \$300,000 for the MIWSFPA and student awards.

We hope to see you at this year's Soiree on Oct. 10. Don't miss it!

Brock extends thanks to the following 2012 General Brock's October Soirée sponsors, whose support contributed to this event's success: BBBlooms | Fallsview Casino Resort | Henley Honda | Lincoln Fabrics | Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce | MBNA | Rankin Construction Inc. | Royal Canadian Mint | TD Insurance Meloche Monnex | Walker Industries Holdings Limited | Whiting Equipment Canada Inc.



A place greater than the sum of its parts

By Kevin Cavanagh

"Transdisciplinarity" is a clunky term, but a simple idea: It means a single research effort undertaken by people from different areas of expertise.

But for Jack Miller, the word transports him back to Cambridge University, where half a century ago the newly minted chemist spent two years before returning to Canada with a second PhD after his name.

Cambridge may be a place of prestige and Nobel prizes, but 1960s
England was a place of cramped, pre-Second World War buildings. New facilities were just coming on stream. Miller arrived to an environment where renowned scholars spent their days sharing space to teach, do research, even have lunch.





Iack Miller

It was transdisciplinarity before anyone coined the word.

"The biology, physics, biochemistry and chemistry departments were a stone's throw from each other," he recalls. "Plus these guys all had lunch together down at the pub. It was an interface of state-of-the-art researchers in all these different disciplines.

"They were the first molecular biologists. Today that's a discipline with its own name, but at that time it was just a physicist doing biology, and a biologist doing physics."

Miller soon realized this "culture of proximity" was a key ingredient to Cambridge's potion for intellectual success.

"Where I was, it was biologists and chemists talking at lunch, talking at work. They'd put the chemists' molecular model together with the biologists' knowledge of biology and the physicists' knowledge of crystallography," Miller remembers.

"This is how, a decade before, they came up with the double helix. They discovered the code for molecular genetics — DNA!"

Miller returned to Canada and a career as a chemistry professor at Brock University in St. Catharines. He became dean of graduate studies and vice-president of research; Brock became a place where much of its research was of the transdisciplinary variety.

In 2009 the professor emeritus was coaxed out of retirement to help assign the work spaces in a new advanced facility at Brock. It was a crucial task: The Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex was designed to be a transdisciplinary environment, so it mattered who was working next to whom.

The Cairns Complex houses 35 researchers and more than 100 graduate students. It has psychologists working near biologists, chemists alongside physiologists, and so on. People work in spacious labs among different faculty members and their students. Even the lounges are shared spaces.

Gary Libben, a psycholinguist who is also Brock's Vice-President of Research, says it's all about breaking down barriers and combining existing disciplines to create new ones.

"We have an ocean full of things to learn about," says Libben, "and maybe a bathtub of things we already know. In my own field, we don't expect the human mind to give up its secrets to just psychologists, or just linguists, or just computer scientists or just people who work on human development. The mind is just too complex."

The approach is not exclusive to people in white lab coats. Professors from all of Brock's seven faculties apply transdisciplinary thinking to a wide swath of teaching and research, interacting with each other or with peers from other universities.

Examples of transdisciplinarity research at Brock:

- The Department of Child and Youth Studies ranges from developmental psychology to neuroscience, criminology and sociology. Professors routinely collaborate on files that go beyond their own disciplines, such as a current project on rights for persons with intellectual disabilities.
- In Community Health Sciences, associate professor Dan Malleck runs history courses that combine health studies with humanities. He says students learn not only different medical issues, but "how different disciplinary perspectives affect the way we perceive the world. Students benefit from experiencing how these different views operate."
- Political science professor Leah Bradshaw teaches programs that embrace literature and arts. "These programs attract precisely the kind of student that we need in a globalized, complex and integrated world," she says. "Students who seek out interdisciplinary graduate programs are among the brightest and the most creative."
- Organic chemist Jeffrey Atkinson, biologist Jeff Stuart and neuroscientist Cheryl McCormick will pool their knowledge to study compounds that could limit the damage to tissue caused by stroke and heart attack. Stuart and Atkinson co-supervise a student in Biological Sciences, and Atkinson notes that this " is an excellent opportunity for me to learn the essentials of the biological system I am helping to moderate."
- Biologist Gary Pickering leads a team of 19 researchers from different backgrounds — and universities studying the effect of climate change on the grape and wine industry, which contributes nearly \$1 billion a year to Ontario's economy.
- Economist Steven Renzetti is leading a major federally-funded study, involving more than 20 Canadian and international researchers, to examine a large range of issues regarding Canada's water supply, including how we use it and how the constantly rising demand for water creates the potential for conflict in Canada and globally.

Libben, who was the University of Calgary's associate vice-president of research before coming to Brock, says transdisciplinarity develops the kind of intellectual versatility that helps graduates succeed in the new economy.

"It trains people in teamwork and it gives them multidimensional skills that enable them to be nimble and effective in the career marketplace," Libben says. "At Brock, we're doing it right."

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



Brock's 1991-92 national champions.

Kings of the court

Catching up with the 1991-92 men's basketball national champs

By Doug Herod

Brian Bleich arrived early at Brock University's athletic centre that Saturday afternoon in early March 1992.

It was the day of the division semifinal basketball game between the Waterloo Warriors and the country's No. 1-ranked team, the Brock Badgers.

Bleich, Brock's starting power forward, had prepared himself for whatever Waterloo might have in store for him that day, but he wasn't ready for what greeted him as he approached the gym building.

"It was an hour before the game and people were lined up outside the doors," says Bleich with a touch of awe more than 20 years later.

What Bleich didn't know was that fans had actually started arriving three hours before the game — a striking example of how the Badgers' success had fuelled unprecedented sports euphoria on campus.

The buzz in the building's corridors transformed into a steady roar once the 2,500 spectators made their way into the gym, the noise reaching ear-splitting levels by game time.

Feeding off the crowd's enthusiasm, the Badgers came out flying against Waterloo, a good team that had beaten Brock earlier in the year. This day, though, it was no contest.

Brock seemed to hit every shot, grab any loose balls and

repel all Waterloo advances, the totality of which served to work the crowd into even more of a frenzy.

The Ontario University Athletic Association West Division playoff game ended in a 99-59 rout.

The 1991-92 team would go on to win the national championship in Halifax a couple of weeks later, defeating the St. Mary's Huskies in the tournament final.

But it was the game against Waterloo, the Badgers' last home appearance, that encapsulated the spirit the team had brought to the University.

"Basically, the whole campus embraced us," says Bleich, who played high school basketball in St. Catharines. "Everywhere you went on campus, they'd know who you were."

Allen MacDougall, the team's three-point shot specialist, notes interest in the team spread beyond Brock.

"It was special the way the Niagara community got behind us, too. We had a lot of local players and because of that it was a community-based team," the Niagara-on-the-Lake native says.

"We became the biggest event in Niagara," says Dave Picton (BA '95), the Badgers' star point guard from Welland.

Terry White, the then-president of Brock, concurs and suggests Niagara was in need of the feel-good boost the basketball team provided.

The local economy had been hit hard in the early 1990s, White notes. The unemployment rate was high, layoff notices



The 1991-92 men's basketball team celebrated the 20th anniversary of their national championship at a banquet last fall. Seen here is the starting lineup of Allen MacDougall (from left) Dave Picton (BA '95), Gord Wood (BA '93), Brian Bleich, Rob DeMott (BA '92) and coach Ken Murray (BPhEd '76).

Below: Fans of the 1991-92 men's basketball team showed their spirit by wearing buckets on their heads when cheering on the national championshipwinning team. Dubbed the Bucket Heads, they gained fame locally and beyond for their spirit.

were frequent and factories were closing.

"Here was one part of the Niagara story that was happy. Everyone was pulling for the team, from Port Colborne to Grimsby."

White, a self-described sports fan, was one of those on board. Indeed, he was at that last home game against Waterloo. Problem was, he arrived just a few minutes before tip-off. The only available seats were in front of a large, boisterous group of face-painted crazies wearing strange-looking helmets.

Once seated, White was handed an empty plastic ice bucket by his newfound friends. He put it on his head. Welcome to the Bucketheads.

No discussion of the 1991-92 championship season would be complete without mention of those playful fanatics, who, by the time the trophy was raised in Halifax, had carved out a notoriety of their own.

That fame wasn't part of any grand plan, recalls Michael Zywicki (BSc '95), one of the four original Bucketheads.

Rather, it was a simply a case of four pals coming across some Budweiser ice buckets left over from a student pub event. They decided to paint their faces blue-and-red and attend a Brock basketball game the next day, the plastic

buckets in hand. Along the way, they picked up a megaphone and a bass drum.

"We just wanted to make some noise," Zywicki says. "For some reason, somebody decided to put the bucket on his head. It was a lark, that's all it was."

Maybe so. But a movement was born, and kept on growing. Zywicki says at its peak there may have been as many as 300 people wearing plastic buckets on their heads.

"It got bigger than we ever thought it would," he says, adding there was never any attempt to bring a sense of order to the chaos. "We just made stuff up as we went along."

They were noticed by more than just other fans.

Brock coach Ken Murray (BPhEd '76) believes the Bucketheads intimidated opposing teams. And shooting guard MacDougall says he'll always remember looking up five minutes into the first game of the championship tournament in Halifax and seeing the Bucketheads noisily making their way into the arena.

"It gave me goosebumps," MacDougall says.

Zywicki proudly confesses to still having his bucket, despite "my wife trying to put it out for many a garage sale."

But he has never felt the desire to wear it again.

"That thing is not comfortable," he says with a laugh.

"I mean, it's a plastic bucket on your head."

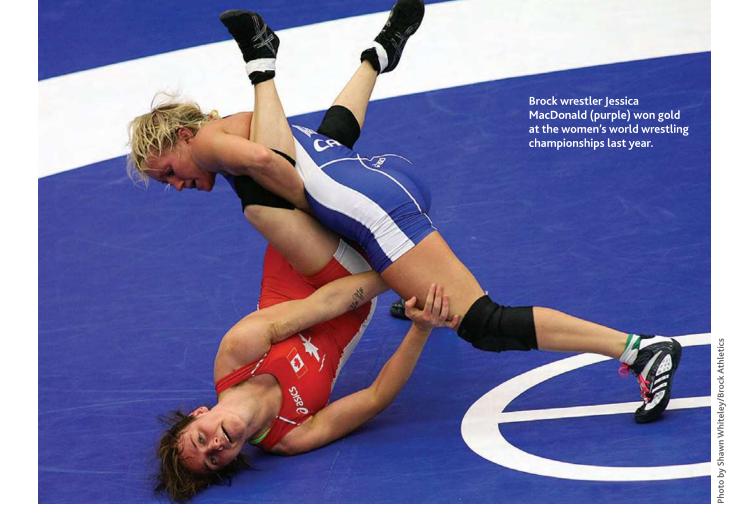
He'll get no argument from ex-president White.

"You got a lot of sound resonance. And it was warm. But it made a definitive statement: This is our team. A solidarity developed," White says.

A championship season. Enthusiastic fans. A galvanized Niagara community. Plus, the Bucketheads.

White wastes few words recalling the fervour of the times. "Man, that was fantastic."

In addition to writing for Surgite, Doug Herod is a columnist for the St. Catharines Standard.



Goldenyear for Brock wrestlers

Women's wrestler Jessica MacDonald has pinned a first on Brock University.

The Windsor native won a gold medal at the 2012 women's world championships in Alberta last summer in the 51-kilogram weight category. That makes MacDonald the Brock wrestling club's first world champion.

She beat out China's Yanan Sun 4-2 after three rounds in the first faceoff between the two wrestlers.

"Jessica has demonstrated excellence over the past few years internationally and to capture gold and become Brock's first ever world champion is something she will remember forever," says Robert Hilson, Brock's Director of Athletics. She joins an elite group of Canadian wrestlers to reach this accomplishment."

The medal count for MacDonald in 2012 didn't end there. She went on to capture gold at the New York Athletic Club Holiday Invitational, where fellow Brock wrestler Michelle Fazzari took top spot in the 59-kilogram group.

The duo proved a force to be reckoned with in December when they took to the mats in Rio de Janeiro and each won gold medals in their respective categories at the Brazil cup.

On golden pond

Call them the scull crushers.

The Brock men's rowing team fought its way to a national championship title at the Canadian University Rowing Championships in Vancouver last November.

The team narrowly beat out the University of Victoria to be crowned champions — the fifth national win in Brock's history.

Men's heavyweight pair Mark Alm and Tim Schrijver had a gold medal performance on Burnaby Lake, one that hinged on the last few strokes of their race.

The heavyweight eights team of Alm, Schrijver, Fraser Berkhout, Eddie Vaughn, Matt Wortley, Greg Theriault, Ben Cushnie, David DeGroot and coxswain Ashley Niblett rowed to a silver medal finish.

The lightweight pair of James Myers and Russell McKean also scored silver.

Berkhout also finished third in the heavyweight singles as did the lightweight 4+ team of Cushnie, Myers, McKean, Niblett and Grayson Gray.

Jordan Chew added to the points tally with a second place finish in the lightweight singles B final.

"A total team effort was put towards accomplishing our goal of winning the CU's banner," Alm says. "Every result from our day was equally important."

The Brock women's team finished the season in fifth place overall.



Badgers baseball team makes provincial finals

The Brock Badgers baseball team hit it out of the park this season when the team pitched, hit and ran its way to the 2012 Ontario University Athletics Baseball Championship, hosted by Brock.

The Badgers went up to bat against the Toronto Varsity Blues in the finals but lost the title to U of T, which nabbed its second straight championship and its fourth since 2001.

Brock out-hit the Varsity Blues 7-4, but U of T won the game 4-0.

Craig Vannus led Brock at the plate with three hits, Ricky Ferri had two, and Nathan Smith and Chris Anderi hit one each.





Thelastword

As a player in the 1970s, **Ken Murray** (BPhEd '79) was an Ontario all-star with Brock basketball teams, then went on to coach them for 20 seasons. He looks back on 1991-92, when the Badgers won their first Canadian championship.



It seems like only yesterday that final buzzer sounded in Halifax, and the men's basketball team was crowned national champions. It's hard to explain the feeling, but it's one I'll never forget.

Certain parts of that tournament are vividly etched in my memory — like the Bucketheads, cheerleaders and other dedicated fans making the 24-hour trip by bus to cheer us on. All in all, more than 100 people made that long-distance trek in support of our team.

I knew the team was relaxed enough and in the right frame of mind to win it all when, during my post-game talk after winning the semis, I looked up and one of my players, Glen Tone, was wearing the Badger mascot head and said "Hi Coach."

While winning the final was the icing on the cake, there

are so many other fond memories from the time leading up to that Halifax trip. One of the most vivid is when we hosted the OUA West semi-final at Brock. We knew that if we won the game, we'd advance to the national championships.

The gym was packed to the rafters. More than 2,400 people crammed in to see us play the Waterloo Warriors. The game sold out quickly — they were forced to close the doors 45 minutes before tipoff. Then-Brock president Terry White, who arrived after they closed the doors, was initially refused admission until someone recognized him.

The only seat available for Terry was right in the middle of the section where our Bucketheads were sitting. Being the good sport that he is, Terry donned a bucket and was crowned an honorary member of this select group of fans. Then he joined in the celebration on the floor as the song 'We are the Champions' by Queen boomed through the PA system, after we dominated Waterloo 99-59.

While we'd secured a spot in the national tournament, we still had the OUA final game ahead of us. More than 4,500 people watched us win a hard-fought battle in overtime against our rivals, the Guelph Gryphons. After the game we were in the dressing room and the players were celebrating rather boisterously with some champagne.

I heard a knock on the door — it was the police. Thank God it was just a good friend of mine who was at the game and wanted to congratulate us.

The 1991-92 season was a magical time with a very special group of young men. There are so many memories, some of which are not suitable for print. But if I can sum it up, I would say this was a very focused team that was incredibly driven to achieve that ultimate goal.

One final memory: After winning the national championship, the fans weren't allowed on the floor to celebrate with us. This was a huge disappointment to everyone. Fortunately, on the way to our team room post-game, I spotted the Bucketheads. A local winery had just sent us a case of champagne, so I invited this special group of fans to join in the celebration with the team.

What a sight to behold!

Memories can last a lifetime and this one I know for certain will last into eternity.

Ken Murray (BPhEd '76) coached the Brock Badgers men's basketball team to two national championships during his tenure as the team's head coach from 1989-2010. He was inducted into the Brock Athletics Hall of Fame in 1996 and the Brock Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009. In 2011, he was inducted into the St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame.

Connect with Grads at a Brock Alumni event!

February 2013



Wednesday, Feb. 27

Toronto Alumni Network, Yoga and shopping experience, Lululemon, Queen Street 7 to 9 p.m., \$10 per person

March 2013



Thursday, March 14

Niagara Alumni Network, IceDogs hockey game and social, Gord's downtown and Garden City Complex, 5 to 10 p.m., \$15 per person



Saturday, March 16

Toronto Alumni Network, Family sugar bush day, Brooks Farms, Mount Albert, Ont. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$7 per person

May 2013



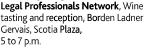
April 2013

Mid-April

Sudbury Alumni Network, Social, Downtown Sudbury, 7 to 9 p.m.

Edmonton Alumni Network, Social, Downtown Edmonton, 5 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 2



Thursday, May 9

Burlington Alumni Network, Pub Triathlon, Boston Manor, Burlington, 7 to 9 p.m., \$20 per person. Includes pool, darts and ping pong challenges, appetizers, complimentary beverage and more!



Thursday, May 23

Toronto Alumni Network, Pub night, Downtown Toronto, 7 to 10 p.m., \$15 per person. Includes complimentary beverage and more!

June 2013



Thursday, June 6

Waterloo-Wellington Alumni **Network**, Professional development workshop, Kitchener, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., \$15 per person



Late lune

Calgary Alumni Network, Patio Party, Downtown Calgary, 5 to 7 p.m.

August 2013



Early August

Niagara Alumni Network, Brewery tour, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 6:30 to 9 p.m., \$20 per person

September 2013



Friday, Sept. 20 to Sunday, Sept. 22

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