

Surgite

A Brock community magazine
Vol.10 No.2 Winter 2018



COVER STORY

**Our 100,000th grad
— now THAT'S
a Convocation!**

PLUS

A second term for
Chancellor Cheechoo

Brock's getting pumped
for the Canada Games



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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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Erin Mathany (BSM '05).

Welcome from the Alumni Association President

Earlier this year, the Brock University Alumni Association (BUAA) welcomed several new faces to our Board of Directors. Our board members represent different Faculties and departments, work in various sectors and fields, and are committed to establishing lifelong connections between Brock University and our alumni.

Building on the solid framework that was established by our predecessors, the current board is focused on helping to support individuals through the crucial transition period from student to alumni, connecting alumni for personal and professional development, enhancing our current affinity and benefits program, and further developing the value of a Brock degree through the celebration and recognition of our individual and collective successes.

We're motivated to find ways that we can connect with alumni in meaningful and impactful ways.

Having a wide range of individuals across the world who can point to Brock as being a catalyst for their personal and professional development is indicative of potential for an immensely supportive community of alumni that we've barely tapped into yet. We encourage all alumni to share in our future by staying connected with us and working with us to add value and benefit to your Brock network.

I look forward to engaging with passionate alumni who are proud of their connection to Brock and are dedicated to contributing to its growth. *Surgite!* – Erin Mathany

BUAA Board of Directors:

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THE BrockNews



Okanagan College in B.C. is partnering with Brock's Faculty of Education to deliver programming for adult educators in trades and technology professions.

Brock partners with B.C. college to enhance skills of tradespeople looking to become adult educators

Through a new college partnership, Brock University is building on the success of its online programming and reaching out across the country to existing and aspiring adult educators in the trades and technology fields.

To increase access to Adult Education, Brock has teamed up with Okanagan College, working with the B.C. school's new Trades and Technology Teacher Education (TTTE) program, which launched in September.

Qualified tradespeople with industry experience register with both institutions and have the opportunity to not only earn a diploma but to also apply to instruct trades programs for adults in their industries.

TTTE students take Adult Education courses online through Brock. Those who complete the diploma may then apply the credits toward a three-year online Bachelor of Education in Adult Education through the University.



Brock student volunteer Daphne Redillas helps to guide retired Brock Professor Tony Ward through a workout at the Brock-Niagara Centre for Health and Well-Being.

Expanding Brock's senior fitness program in Niagara

Brock University is reaching out into the community in an effort to help seniors achieve their health and fitness goals.

The University is collaborating with Wellness Suites Condominiums to expand the SeniorFit and Heart Strong programs already offered at the Brock-Niagara Centre for Health and Well-Being in St. Catharines. The partnership will see Brock Kinesiology and Health Sciences students guiding senior residents of the Niagara Falls development through personalized exercise and rehabilitation programs on a path to healthy living.

The 97-unit Wellness Suites facility, slated for completion in September 2019, includes a 5,500 square-foot Functional Medicine Centre designed to house Brock's programs.

The partnership will provide valuable experiential education opportunities for students, allowing them to develop skills by working in real-life situations.

It will also allow Brock researchers to study how the facility's "personalized medicine" programs impact residents.



Students get peek inside Leafs training camp

The Toronto Maple Leafs offered Brock Sport Management (SPMA) students a rare behind-the-scenes look at the industry in September. During the fan-favourite team's Niagara Falls training camp and an exclusive Speakers Forum held at the Gale Centre, Leafs representatives, including In-game Host Danielle Emanuele, left, and General Manager and Brock Alumnus Kyle Dubas (BSM '07), gave 250 SPMA students insight into the franchise.

Brock leadership given a boost in 2018



Leela MadhavaRau.



Janusz Koziński.



Greg Finn.



Elizabeth Vlossak.

Some new and familiar faces took the helm of key areas of Brock University in 2018, with the aim of enhancing the institution and preparing for its future.

In September, Brock welcomed Leela MadhavaRau as the University's first Director of Human Rights and Equity. The new role is aimed at further advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, and promoting a welcoming and collegial environment across the University community.

Bringing extensive leadership experience from both Canadian and American university settings, MadhavaRau joined Brock from California's University of Redlands, where she most recently served as Associate Dean and Advisor to the President for Campus Diversity and Inclusion.

Also bringing years of experience to the Brock team is Janusz Koziński, one of the world's most widely acknowledged experts in science, technology and sustainable energy systems.

Koziński, who began a three-year term in August as Special Advisor to the President, comes to Brock having most recently served as Founding President and Professor of Britain's Hereford University of Technology and Engineering.

In October, veteran senior administrator Greg Finn became the institution's interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic. Finn joined Brock in 1985 as a lecturer in Geological Sciences and has since held many roles including Associate Dean in the Faculty of Mathematics and Science, Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences and Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Academic.

Also joining the leadership team is Associate Professor of History Elizabeth Vlossak, who was named interim Director of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in July. Vlossak has taken over for David Vivian, who is on a year-long sabbatical.



A new lighting system allows for Brock's Schmon Tower to glow in various colours at night.

Seeing Brock's Schmon Tower in a new light

This summer, Brock unveiled a new nighttime look for the University's signature building.

A new LED lighting system was installed on Schmon Tower, a key component of the University's landscape since its construction in 1968.

The 13-storey landmark is visible on a clear day from miles around and can now be seen at night with colourful lights cast down all four sides of the building.

The lights replaced the aging system that was decommissioned almost 10 years ago and the residential-style floodlights that were installed in recent years as a temporary fix.

With the innovative technology comes a rainbow of colour options and light show possibilities, allowing the tower to be illuminated in colours corresponding with various holidays throughout the year.

The new system uses nearly 10 times less energy than that of the original lights, contributing to the University's mission to lower its carbon footprint and increase energy efficiency on campus.

Cheechoo elected to second term as Chancellor

Canadian writer, director and filmmaker Shirley Cheechoo has been appointed to a second term as Chancellor of Brock University.

Cheechoo was unanimously re-elected to the ceremonial leadership role for a further two years in June by the University Senate, upon the recommendation of Brock President Gervan Fearon and following consultation with the Board of Trustees. Her initial three-year term was to expire in fall 2018.



Shirley Cheechoo.

Fearon called Cheechoo a strong leader who connects students to the important role that Indigenous people have played in the development of the country, and also to how the arts can inspire people to find

scope for leadership.

"The Chancellor has made enormous contributions to the University," said Fearon. "She contributes to Brock's priorities to advance community engagement and post-secondary opportunities across Niagara and beyond, plays an important role in inspiring the establishment of a new position for a Vice-Provost for Indigenous Engagement, and continues to support the building of capacity and understanding for indigenizing the University."



“I think this is proof of how CCOVI’s industry partnerships really shine and how we work together to achieve a common goal.”

— Jim Willwerth, CCOVI Senior Scientist

CCOVI’s new research vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines were planted in June.

New vineyards plus Ottawa's research push puts CCOVI scientists on a national stage

By Britt Dixon

Brock University’s Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) is helping to strengthen Canada’s \$9-billion grape and wine industry by playing a key role in a new national grape and wine research cluster.

In July, Canada’s Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay, committed \$8.4 million to the Canadian Grape and Wine Science Cluster. The collaborative project includes university researchers, grape growers and industry partners in Ontario, B.C., Quebec and Nova Scotia.

CCOVI will lead the research in Ontario, where the industry has a \$4.4-billion economic impact, and will be involved in additional research across the country.

This funding builds on projects initiated in a five-year, \$1.4-million integrated research program, funded through a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Collaborate Research and Development grant in partnership with Ontario Grape and Wine Research Inc. — and includes in-kind support from industry partners.

“The funding and support from both government and industry for this research allows us to address timely, industry-driven research questions that will help ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the Canadian grape and wine industry,” said CCOVI Director Debbie Inglis.

Researchers are looking to improve

grapevine health, wine quality, market competitiveness and the sustainability of the Canadian industry.

One of the program’s core missions is to identify optimal grapevine combinations for Ontario’s climate and soil conditions, research that will be greatly assisted by new vineyards that CCOVI is now using in key grape-growing zones.

CCOVI announced this fall that it is partnering with commercial grape growers in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake to plant the vineyards for a clone and rootstock evaluation program of Ontario’s main VQA varieties.

CCOVI Senior Scientist Jim Willwerth said the program takes a proactive approach that will help the industry grow and adapt to challenges expected with climate change.

“We are looking at cold hardiness, fruit

composition, wine quality and general vine performance, so that the industry knows the best combinations to use for our core grape varieties,” he said.

The certified grapevines were planted in June in collaboration with Huebel Grapes Estates and the support of grape growers Bill Schenck and Erwin Wiens, who are each allowing use of two acres of their land. More vines will be planted in 2019.

“This is an example of an industry and university research program, which ultimately is looking to help the sustainability of the Ontario and the Canadian grape and wine industry,” said Willwerth. “I think this is proof of how CCOVI’s industry partnerships really shine and how we work together to achieve a common goal.”



CCOVI Director Debbie Inglis and Niagara grape grower Matthias Oppenlaender, Board Chair, Grape Growers of Ontario, centre, listen as Brock PhD student Jenn Kelly speaks with Canada’s Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay during a laboratory tour at Brock.



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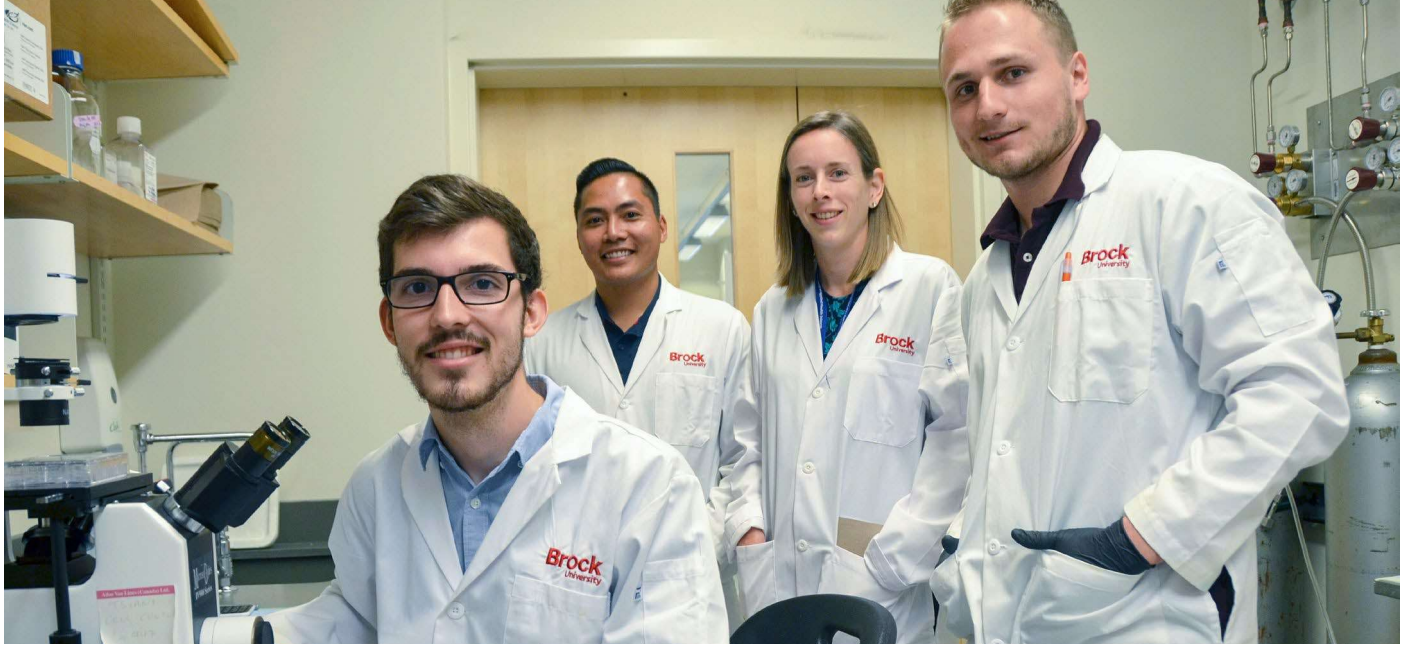
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Master's student Grant Hayward, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology Val Fajardo, Assistant Professor of Health Sciences Rebecca MacPherson and master's student Bradley Baranowski are part of a Brock research team looking at Alzheimer's mortality rates.

Connecting Alzheimer's and the U.S. countryside

By Cathy Majtenyi

Life outside the city may once have been thought to be a ticket to good health with plenty of exercise and fresh food. But recent Brock University research suggests that in modern times, the opposite might be true.

A research team headed by Assistant Professor of Health Sciences Rebecca MacPherson has found that Alzheimer's disease mortality rates are higher in American rural counties when compared to urban areas.

"This may be linked to greater physical inactivity, obesity and diabetes, as well as lower trace lithium levels in tap water," she says.

MacPherson, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology Val Fajardo and master's students Bradley Baranowski and Grant Hayward examined data — including levels of education, obesity, diabetes, physical inactivity and lithium concentrations in tap water — from 155 rural and urban counties in Texas.

The data came from earlier research Fajardo and MacPherson conducted in Texas, which found that trace elements of lithium in drinking water can slow death rates from Alzheimer's disease.

In the recent study, titled "Increased

prevalence of obesity/Type 2 diabetes and lower levels of lithium in rural Texas counties may explain greater Alzheimer's disease risk," and published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, the team compared the rate of deaths from Alzheimer's disease with the risk factors of obesity and Type 2 diabetes among people living in cities and the countryside.

The researchers found that obesity and Type 2 diabetes were most common among people living in the countryside, a trend that on the surface flies in the face of conventional wisdom.

"The findings are counter-intuitive to the stereotypes and preconceived notions that we have, but they are consistent with what we find in the lab at the cellular level, which shows there are links between physical inactivity, obesity and Alzheimer's deaths," says Fajardo.

MacPherson, who researches how defective cell functioning contributes to disease, explains that higher rates of insulin resistance, leading to Type 2 diabetes, are common in cases of obesity. Chronic inflammation is also frequently present, leading to inflammation in the brain or a change in the brain's metabolism.

"Insulin resistance and altered brain metabolism change the proteins in the brain that are involved with Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis," she says.

Why there are higher rates of obesity and diabetes in rural Texas populations is still being explored.

As a co-lead author on the group's paper, along with Hayward, Baranowski thinks activity levels in the countryside are very different than in the past.

"My dad grew up on a farm and back then there was a lot more manual labour compared to now," he says. "Now, you can actually program tractors to do the routes for you and many other things automatically."

Hayward says another factor could be a rural-urban disparity.

"I think there are definitely some barriers for rural populations to access health care: less services available in some areas, perhaps more travel time to receive care and a financial burden in many cases."

MacPherson says the team found lower education levels in the Texas countryside, which could influence people's dietary choices.

A next step in the research could be to conduct a similar study in Canada, says Fajardo.

Canada's health-care and education systems are different than those in the U.S., which might have an influence on obesity, diabetes and other risk factors in rural populations, the researchers say.

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Rebecca Alcock became a part of Brock history as the University's 100,000th graduate.

100,000 reasons to celebrate

By *Maryanne Firth*

When Rebecca Alcock (BA '18) reached the stage at Brock's Spring Convocation, her heart was pounding in anticipation.

This was the moment the Ancaster native had worked the past four years to experience, and she planned to savour every second.

Little did she know a whirlwind of excitement — and confetti — was about to make the day even more memorable than imagined.

Alcock lined up with her peers and readied to accept her Bachelor of Arts degree. But just as her name was about to be called, there was a momentary pause in the ceremony.

For the hundreds of graduands and guests in attendance, the brief break from tradition went largely unnoticed. For Alcock, however, it was enough to cause a flutter in her stomach and a skip in the beat drumming in her chest.

This was something big.

Over the sound system, orator Stephanie Harper broke the silence, sharing the story of Brock's first-ever Convocation ceremony, held May 26, 1967. It was on that day that John Auld became the first person to receive a degree from the University.

"I'm very proud that I'm now a part of history as Brock's 100,000th graduate."

— *Rebecca Alcock, Brock alumna*

"And now, Brock University is about to welcome its 100,000th graduate," Harper told the crowd.

With a graceful, albeit nervous, walk across the stage, Alcock solidified her place in Brock's history books, becoming the University's milestone grad.

As a special embroidered hood was placed upon her shoulders by Brock President Gervan Fearon, red confetti rained down, applause erupted and music echoed through Ian Beddis Gymnasium.

"I was in complete shock," Alcock, 22, recalled of the moment now ingrained in her mind. "I was really nervous because I didn't know what was going on, but the surprise was so amazing and made my graduation day that much more special."

Early on in the planning for the June event, Fearon encouraged Brock staff to make the occasion an unforgettable one for the 100,000th graduate, while also recognizing those who laid the groundwork that made the milestone possible.

"The idea of being the President of Brock for this moment is an amazing honour, but the tremendous milestone for the University reflects the actions and efforts of everyone up to this point — faculty, staff, alumni, donors, partners and presidents," he said.

"It places Brock in an elite group of universities and says that as an institution,



A whirlwind of excitement — and confetti — enveloped the stage as Brock reached a huge milestone.

we have a wide range of individuals across Canada and around the globe who can point to Brock as being where they got their post-secondary education.”

Brock Registrar Geraldine Jones, whose office has been tracking graduate numbers over the years, said everyone was thrilled to be involved with the celebration.

“This is the stuff we love,” she said. “Convocation is purposefully a serious occasion, but it’s always great when we can inject a little frivolity into the medieval traditions we recognize.

“It’s an important marker of where we’ve come and where we’re headed.”

The ceremony, which came more than 50 years after Auld became Brock’s first-ever graduate, was an opportunity to reflect on the past and celebrate the future.

Although Auld wasn’t able to attend the

milestone occasion, he sent well-wishes and shared his memories of the sunny spring day when he received his Bachelor of Arts on the podium beside Schmon Tower.

“There were 39 of us — and I was the first to the podium,” he said, recalling his big day. “We were both excited and relieved, and we all wondered what this ‘Brock thing’ would mean in our futures.

“Although I subsequently attended several universities, and taught at one for 30 years, none compared to the gift and good fortune I received from Brock,” said Auld, who went on to become a professor at the University of Guelph.

For Alcock, being part of an historic Brock moment was the cherry on top of an already sweet university experience.

She embraced her time on campus while studying English Language and Literature

with a minor in History, and made friends she will cherish for a lifetime.

“I learned a lot through these four years,” she said. “It was the first time I lived away from home, so there were a lot of new experiences for me.”

Brock helped Alcock develop practical skills she is now using to propel herself along the path to becoming a teacher. The University also showed her the importance of having dogged determination.

“Brock taught me to never give up on my dreams and to keep working towards my future goals — no matter what,” she said.

Alcock has now taken the next step in her educational journey, pursuing a Bachelor of Education in Junior/Intermediate at Nipissing University in North Bay.

“My experience at Brock University prepared me for the next chapter of my continuing education,” she said.

While her Brock studies have concluded, Alcock feels she will forever remain connected to her alma mater.

“I’m very proud that I’m now a part of history as Brock’s 100,000th graduate,” she said. “It is something that I will never forget and will treasure for the rest of my life.”

She urged graduates of the University to remain connected to one another, and to the school.

“Stay updated on the new and upcoming things that are happening and remain connected to the friends that you’ve made throughout the years,” she advised.

“I had many positive experiences during my years at Brock and I am honoured to encourage future students to pursue their education at Brock University.”



Rebecca Alcock, centre, is celebrated by Elder-in-Residence Carol Jacobs, Chancellor Shirley Cheechoo, President Gervan Fearon and Board of Trustees Chair Gary Comerford.



Latrell Harris, left, became the youngest player named to Canada's senior men's lacrosse team in July.

Brock lacrosse star reaches the world stage

By *Stephen Leithwood*

Brock University has a professional lacrosse player and national team member walking its halls.

Last summer, Latrell Harris became the youngest player named to Canada's senior men's lacrosse team, as well as the only Canadian University Field Lacrosse Association (CUFLA) player to make the national team since 2010.

The 20-year-old St. Catharines native suited up for Canada at the World Field Lacrosse Championships in Israel, marking an unforgettable experience for the second-year student.

"The process was pretty cool. We had an early tryout in October 2017 and from there it was the waiting game," Harris said. Making the national team has "always been a goal" for the passionate lacrosse player, who also plays for Brock's men's team.

"Representing my country means everything to me and I'm thankful I had the opportunity to do so in Israel," he said of the July competition.

Canada was narrowly edged out 9-8 by the United States in the championship game.

In addition to his time with the Badgers and on the world stage, Harris also plays defence for the Toronto Rock in the National Lacrosse League (NLL) and the St. Catharines Athletics Junior A team. He was drafted in the 2016 NLL Draft, and was named to the All-Rookie team.

"Lacrosse means everything to me. It's

with me every day — practice, game film, even in the community," Harris said. "I'm not too sure what I would be doing without lacrosse. I guess free time would be a thing," he quipped.



Latrell Harris.

"Latrell brings confidence to the team. He believes in his teammates, and vice versa."

—*Tim Luey, Brock men's lacrosse head coach*

Harris was bound to join the Badgers' lacrosse team when he enrolled in Brock's Faculty of Social Sciences in 2017, yet head coach Tim Luey was surprised with the unassuming way the rising sports star carried himself.

"It's incredible how humble he is for someone who has played at such a high level at such a young age," said Luey. "Latrell has a real love for the game. Even when we're winning by a lot and it's the fourth quarter, he's dying to get on the field to play. Latrell brings confidence to the team. He believes in his teammates, and vice versa."

Harris scored five goals and three assists in 12 regular season games for the Badgers as a defender in his freshman year. He helped the Badgers reach the 2017 Baggataway Cup, the university lacrosse championship, and he was named to the CUFLA All-Canadian team.

Harris' cousin, Tyson Bell, has had a big influence on his lacrosse career. Bell was also a member of Team Canada and competes for Calgary in the NLL.

"He's my older cousin who sets a good example for me to follow and has been a role model of mine since we were young," Harris said. "My family also rarely misses a game, even when the weather doesn't cooperate. It means a lot to me, so I give it back to them by winning or even having a good game for myself, because I know it makes them feel great too."

"I motivate myself to always be better mentally and physically. Even if I'm tired or sore I know putting in the work pays off."



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Alumni descended on Brock Night at the 2018 Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, held as part of the largest Homecoming weekend in the University's history.

Homecoming brims with Badger pride

By Kaitlyn Daw

As she walked through the doors of Brock's Homecoming celebrations, Stacey Taylor (BA '93, BEd '93) was instantly whisked back in time.

The Child and Youth Studies and Concurrent Education graduate was transported back to her days at the University, surrounded by her classmates and the memories they shared with one another.

"How amazing it was to have a chance to celebrate our 25th reunion back at Brock," Taylor, now a public school teacher in Niagara, said with delight of Homecoming weekend. "Our group of classmates and friends had a wonderful time."

The group was among more than 1,000 alumni who took a walk down memory lane Sept. 21 to 23, coming from near and far to reunite, network and enjoy a lineup of events infused with Badger pride.

For Taylor and her peers, the weekend was a "priceless" opportunity to not only

reconnect and reflect on days gone by, but to also explore the University's evolution.

"We enjoyed seeing all of the changes on campus and revisiting some of our old favourite spots — Alpie's especially," she said.

The Alumni Recognition Reception celebrated 25- and 50-year anniversary classes and honoured distinguished alumni and faculty award recipients. The luncheon was charged with emotion as award recipients reflected on their personal and professional accomplishments and the role that Brock and its members played in shaping their unique journeys.

"A huge thank you to the team at Brock for giving us such a special memory," Taylor said of the reception. "I can't wait until our 50th reunion."

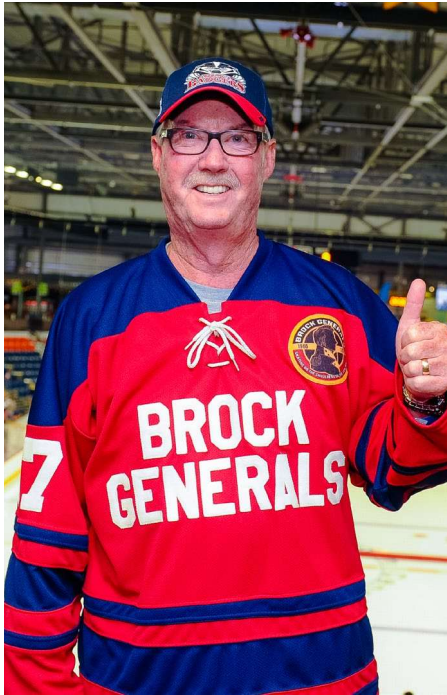
Also among Homecoming weekend's packed lineup of events was the signature Steel Blade Classic hockey game at the Meridian Centre. The sold-out event drew a crowd of 5,000 students, alumni and community members who cheered the Brock Badgers to victory against the

Guelph Gryphons. Within the stands was longtime Brock supporter and Steel Blade creator, Ed Werner.

Two players on the Brock Badgers men's hockey team have received financial assistance through the support of the high-energy exhibition game annually since its inception 20 years ago.

Homecoming closed with Brock Night at the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, one of the weekend's hot ticket events providing a memorable VIP alumni experience with an array of local food, wine and entertainment.

"Brock Night is a great collaboration with Canada's largest wine festival that takes place right here in St. Catharines," said Shelley Huxley, Director, Alumni Relations. "Many of our alumni went to Grape and Wine when they attended Brock University and have fond memories of the festival. It's those memories that draw them back to the event as alumni and we're happy to add value to that experience."



Alumnus John O'Brien (BA '70), who played on the original Brock men's hockey team and scored the first varsity goal in the University's history, returned to his roots at the Steel Blade Classic.



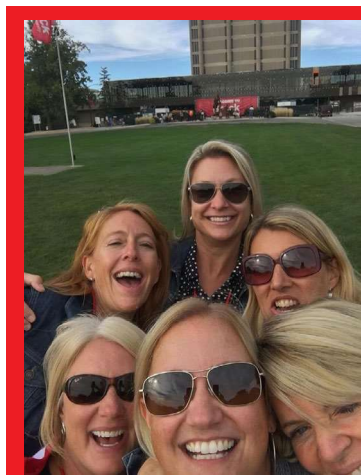
Brock alumni reunited with their classmates — and the University's mascot, Boomer the Badger — during Homecoming.



Brock's Homecoming weekend included a series of class reunions, with many grads first gathering at the Steel Blade Tailgate event before the big hockey game.



Joanne Caruso (BA '93), Elio Caruso, Anthony Caruso, Rob Caruso, Daniel Hicks, Anjana Chand Hicks (BA '93), Sandra Zacharuk (BBA '93) and James Zacharuk connected at the Alumni Recognition Reception.



“We enjoyed seeing all of the changes on campus and revisiting some of our old favourite spots.”

— Stacey Taylor, Brock alumna

Left: Members of Brock's Class of 1993, including, front from left, Terry Robertson, Teralee Brunn, Cynthia Brooks, and back from left, Alice Golding, Stacey Taylor and Shelley Gaudet, reflect on their time at the University during their 25-year reunion.

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Brock
University



A new app, created by a Brock graduate student, aims to help teachers meet daily physical activity requirements in schools.

Education student creates an app to help teachers get kids moving

By Tarryn Landman

A new tool created by a Brock graduate student aims to help teachers get kids active in the classroom.

Jaime Barratt (BECE '17), a Master of Education student, released an app in the fall to help teachers find resources on and meet policy requirements for daily physical activity (DPA) in schools.

The app, DPA4U, was inspired by Barratt's time as an early childhood educator and her work on an independent study supervised by James Mandigo, Brock's Vice-Provost for Enrolment Management and International.

"There are studies that have been done that show academic performance improves when a child has been active beforehand."

—Jaime Barratt, Brock graduate student

The app helps teachers by making DPA resources and information convenient.

"In my research, I saw that educators thought there weren't enough resources, there wasn't enough time and there wasn't enough space, and the resources were

mostly out of reach," Barratt says. "The app is helpful because most classrooms either have a tablet or an iPad. Teachers have their phones. The app is on-hand."

The app provides details about what DPA is, the requirements, the benefits and curated resources, including videos from YouTube, provincial documents and other handbooks. Teachers can use it to find DPA options that meet their immediate needs, such as activities that can be done in small spaces.

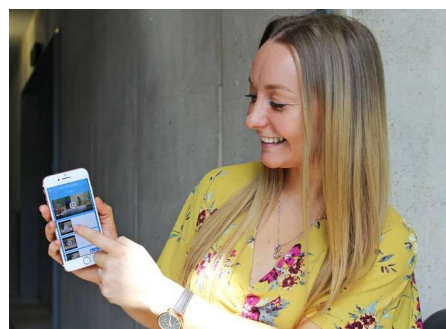
Canadian physical activity guidelines say that children and youth ages five to 17 should be getting 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.

"What I found was children in child-care centres are not meeting that. They're maybe meeting 12 minutes of their seven-hour day in child care being physically active," says Barrett, adding that average comes despite children having two one-hour outdoor play sessions a day. Her thesis research will focus on creating an educator resource to hopefully increase the amount of activity children engage in.

Ontario's elementary school children are supposed to meet 20 minutes per day of DPA in the classroom. That mark does not have to be met in a single session.

One in three children are meeting that requirement according to the research Barratt reviewed. In one study of 16 Toronto elementary classrooms, no children participated in 20 minutes of DPA.

The research measured physical activity in elementary schools and child-care



Master of Education student Jaime Barratt has created a new app to help teachers get students moving in the classroom.

centres using accelerometers, counting factors like steps and heart rates.

Children experience health and other benefits, such as improved concentration in the classroom, by engaging in physical activity.

"There are studies that have been done that show academic performance improves when a child has been active beforehand," Barratt says.

She credits Mandigo for challenging her to "think outside the box."

"He wanted to see if I could come up with a solution that isn't regular, that's innovative," she says.

Barratt doesn't have much programming experience but managed to build the app with the help of tutorials and other people, including her brother.

"I've had a lot of support," she says. "It's been almost overwhelming."

The app is available for both iPhones and Android.

Canada Games mean huge opportunities for Brock and the Niagara community

By Dan Dakin

The 2021 Canada Summer Games may belong to Niagara, but for Brock University, they mean a wide range of opportunities for athletes, students and faculty members both today and in the future.

The Games themselves will last for two weeks, but the vision for the legacy they'll leave in the region is getting clearer.

At Brock, the academic vision includes related course work, research and experiential learning opportunities for students across all Faculties. The sporting vision includes Canada Games Park, a yet-to-be finalized athletic venue to be built on campus, as well as upgrades to other athletic facilities at the University.

The Canada Games will bring about 5,000 athletes, coaches and officials from across Canada to Niagara in the summer of 2021. It is expected that about 6,000 volunteers will be needed to host the major event, and that the Games will bring an economic impact of about \$200 million to the region.

"The Canada Games represent the coming together of the entire Niagara region," said Brock President Gervan Fearon when the MNP Torch Relay for the 2019 Canada Games came through Brock in October.

Fearon was named to the 2021 Canada Summer Games Host Society Board of Directors earlier this year, joining Brock's Tom Arkell, Special Advisor to the Vice-President, Administration, who has been the University's liaison in helping the Host Society bid for, and now plan for, the Games.

Brock has now set up two committees — one focusing on academics and the other on operations.

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Professor Julie Stevens is chairing the Academic Committee, made up of three sub-committees focused on research, teaching and learning, and community and career engagement.

"The academic opportunities connected to the Canada Summer Games for Brock students span every Faculty on our campus," Stevens said. "While we might automatically think of sport-related programs as providing the best partnerships, the truth is, every Faculty has a fit."

She gave examples of students in the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts being involved with the Games' arts and culture focus, and students in the Faculty of Math and Science's Statistics programs helping with managing data related to planning and competition.

"Students have the chance to take advantage of experiential learning opportunities whether they be in formal courses, through research or through their own community volunteer work," Stevens said.

The Operations Committee also has three areas of focus, including facilities, sports and the Canada Games village, which will all be housed on campus.

While some of Brock's existing athletic facilities will receive minor upgrades leading up to the Games, the big ticket item will be Canada Games Park, a multi-sport athletic complex to be built on land in the southeast corner of Brock's property behind the Zone 2 parking lot.

"The Host Society, Brock University and the cities of Thorold and St. Catharines are working with a



University President Gervan Fearon, left, and Brock Niagara Penguins Director Karen Natho, right, with teenage para sport athlete Kanice MacLean during the Canada Games Torch Relay celebration.

wide range of community user groups to define the various uses and spaces within Canada Games Park," said Wayne Parrish, Chief Executive Officer for the 2021 Games. "Brock will play host to as many as 18 sports in the Canada Summer Games lineup."

Parrish said the Host Society is working with architectural firm MJMA and Niagara-based Raimondo + Associates Architects to provide the design development work on the complex at Brock, as well as the Henley Training Centre planned for Henley Island.

"In addition to its local partners, the Host Society has also been working with officials from Infrastructure Canada and the Ontario government's Ministry of Infrastructure to define the funding envelope that will support the construction of Canada Games Park and the Henley Training Centre," said Parrish, adding that he hopes the funding will be confirmed by early 2019.

More details on what might be included in Canada Games Park will be released once the funding is secured.



Aalanna Romana Rusnak carries the Canada Games torch to the Brock campus Oct. 20 as she's cheered on by a large group of people.



Marilyn J. Walker Theatre
Pantalone's Palace



Rodman Hall



Conductor Rachel Rensink-Hoff with
Brock University Choirs, Cairns Recital Hall,
December 2017

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Brock University

Facial recognition study connects Brock and Canada Border Services



PhD student Claire Matthews is using funding from a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship to support work with the Canada Border Services Agency.

By Lauryn Carrick

Facial recognition is a tricky craft, but it plays a critical role when it comes to national security.

Eyeing a years-old passport to determine whether its holder is who they say they are is a task that comes with many challenges, but Brock University student Claire Matthews hopes to help make it easier for front-line officers.

Matthews, a PhD student in Psychology, has teamed up with the Canada Border Services Agency in an effort to improve facial recognition techniques used across the country.

Along with Psychology Professor and PhD supervisor Catherine Mondloch, Matthews has been working with the national organization since June 2017.

“What we’re trying to do is develop tools and training to improve the skills of officers,” said Matthews, who is not yet able to divulge details of the study.

“It’s interesting for us because we get to work with a unique participant group that has to do these tasks on a daily basis,” she said. “And CBSA is interested in seeing if our research can provide them with some assistance.”

Matthews’ work on facial recognition has garnered national attention and most recently saw her awarded a prestigious

Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. The award will help to partially fund the CBSA work.

“To know that my hard work in academics and research together with my involvement with the community are being recognized is an honour,” Matthews said.

“It’s nice to know our research might help ease the jobs of border officers.”

— Claire Matthews, Brock PhD student

The \$50,000 scholarship is designed to attract and retain world-class doctoral students by supporting those who demonstrate both leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and health-related fields.

The funding has allowed Matthews to invest more time into her research and community involvement, while also increasing her travel to international conferences to disseminate her research.

Her work with CBSA, which also has practical implications for other industries, such as law enforcement, provides an opportunity to “have a real impact on people’s lives,” she said.

Improved facial recognition will help to prevent people who shouldn’t be crossing the border from doing so and will assist people whose identification is valid but may come into question in successfully transiting border crossings, she said.

“It’s nice to know our research might help ease the jobs of border officers and help avoid situations like this.”

Matthews became interested in facial perception while doing her undergraduate thesis in Mondloch’s Centre for Lifespan Development lab.

During her master’s degree at Brock, she explored why people have a harder time identifying faces outside of their own race. Her PhD focuses on facial recognition across the lifespan to understand differences in the process of learning.

Mondloch said the work Matthews is doing is cutting-edge and will impact Canadians.

“Claire is addressing unexplored questions in facial recognition with studies that demonstrate her ingenuity and commitment to research,” she said. “She is a rising star.”

Brock University had a total economic impact on Niagara of

\$450 MILLION

in the fiscal year 2017-18. Its initial spending in Niagara of \$300 million included:



\$180.1 million in operational expenditures



\$3.8 million in capital expenditures



An estimated \$104.9 million in total student spending (full-time, undergraduate)



An estimated \$11.4 million in visitor spending



Brock University had a total economic impact on all of Ontario (including Niagara) of **\$639.8 million** in the fiscal year 2017-18.

The Brock effect: The University's impact on Niagara and beyond

By Dan Dakin

Nearly half a billion dollars. Even on the conservative end of the measurement scale, that's the economic impact Brock University has on the Niagara region each year.

It comes in the form of Brock's 19,000 students living in the region and spending their money here. It comes from hundreds of millions of dollars in capital and operational expenditures. And it comes from Brock's 4,800 part- and full-time employees receiving more than \$200 million in payroll each year.

"I encourage you to look beyond the numbers," said Brock University President Gervan Fearon. "There are individuals directly tied to each of those dollar values. The values reflect the outstanding work our staff, faculty, researchers, students and partners are doing in contributing to economic and community activities across the region and province."

A new policy brief released by the Niagara Community Observatory (NCO)

Oct. 10 gives an updated snapshot of the University's economic impact locally and beyond. The brief is a pilot project that will lead to more wholesome economic impact studies, as well as research examining Brock's social and community engagement impact.

"One of the things this paper does is show how the University can be a catalyst and a partner in Niagara," Fearon said. "Brock is a community-based university and what we're celebrating here is not just our achievements, but the achievements of the entire community."

Brock Associate Professor of Geography and Tourism Studies Jeff Boggs and master's student Lauren Peddle (BA '18) co-authored the report after spending months researching and poring through data using two separate accepted methodologies.

Using conservative assumptions as the basis, one method estimates Brock's impact in Niagara to be more than \$436 million and the other more than \$450 million. When student and related spending are considered, this number

jumps to nearly \$640 million.

Brock has an annual operating budget of \$320 million and a payroll of more than \$212 million. It's one of Niagara's biggest employers, and nearly 80 per cent of its employees live in the region.

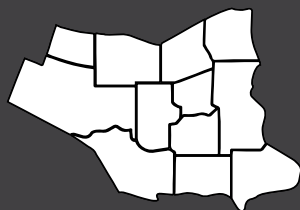
Brock Vice-President, Research Tim Kenyon said measuring and characterizing a post-secondary institution's impact on its community is a "ferociously difficult challenge." But Brock's decision to take it on shows the University's commitment to being a community partner.

"What we learned is that the University affects the community, but the community also affects the University," he said.

He added that Brock's more than \$15 million in research grants received in the past year translates into equipment purchases, new hires and the enabling of research that positively impacts the community.

The policy brief will become a foundation for future research and planning, said Fearon.

Brock's
4,800
 part- and full-
 time employees
 receive
 more than
\$200
 million
 in payroll each year.



Nearly
 80% of Brock's employees
 live in the Niagara region

..... Brock has more than

19,000
 students | **100,000**
 graduates



More than
\$15
 million
 in research grants



Brock's total impact
 per student in Niagara
\$25,204

"We'll now be able to look at the numbers to say 'How can we have the greatest financial impact at a regional level?'"

In his remarks to those assembled for the NCO presentation, Brock Vice-President, Administration Brian Hutchings said Brock is growing and has shifted from an up-and-coming university to one that's in its formative years.

"That little university with its roots throughout the Niagara Escarpment has grown to be highly successful and on the world stage," Hutchings said. "We have more than 19,000 students and 100,000 graduates. We have an active research community, an unparalleled student experience and we're highly recognized for our teaching and learning."

"We're small enough that our students aren't lost in numbers, but big enough to give them the university experience. That's the perfect combination and we have it right here in Niagara."

Deputy St. Catharines CAO David Oakes, one of the panelists at the NCO brief launch, said Brock's impact on

municipalities in the region is immense.

"Brock is critical to the St. Catharines economy," he said. "You look at something like the Steel Blade hockey game, where you have 5,000 students coming downtown — that has a direct impact on the downtown core that wouldn't have been there otherwise."

"What we learned is that the University affects the community, but the community also affects the University."

—*Tim Kenyon, Brock Vice-President, Research*

Other panelists reflecting on the important role played by the University and the value added to Niagara communities included Mishka Balsom from the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, Rino Mostacci from the Niagara Region and Peter Tiidus, Dean of Brock's Faculty of Applied Health Sciences.

With the initial economic impact study now complete, more in-depth examinations of the financial, social, research and community outreach impacts will follow.

"Brock University contributes to the community capacity and regional economic activities through its operational and capital expenditure activities as well as its community engagement and research initiatives," Fearon said. "As this economic impact research reveals, there is tremendous value-for-money generated by the University for each dollar of funding, donation and support provided to Brock. Brock is a partner in community and regional economic development and a leader in post-secondary education."

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Brock
University



Brock University is ranked third for student satisfaction and 13th overall for comprehensive universities in the 2019 Maclean's University Rankings.

Record enrolment and Maclean's ranking reflect Brock's momentum: Fearon

By Dan Dakin

First it was a record-setting enrolment of more than 19,000 students. Then came a better-than-ever performance in the Maclean's University Rankings.

It was quite the fall for Brock University.

In September, Brock announced its incoming class was five per cent larger than a year ago, making the 2018-19 enrolment the largest in the University's 54-year history. Making that statistic even more impressive is the fact Ontario's pool of high school graduates has declined by more than one per cent.

Brock's growing student body also includes more than 900 new international graduate and undergraduate students from 68 different countries — a remarkable 50 per cent spike from last year's intake of new international students.

It was a great way to start the school year, and it was followed in October by the release of the 2019 Maclean's University Rankings, which cast Brock as a national leader in several key disciplines.

In its comparison of 15 comprehensive universities across the country, the 2019 edition of the Maclean's review ranks Brock number three in Canada for overall student satisfaction, first for mental health services provided to students and fourth for the quality of its academic advisors — staff

who help students determine their desired program, select the courses to achieve it, and ultimately fulfil their academic goals.

“The entire Brock community can celebrate the excellence in post-secondary education we are being recognized for delivering.”

— Gervan Fearon, Brock President

The magazine's overall ranking, factoring all metrics, put Brock at 13th on the national stage, jumping two positions up the table since last year's report. Brock has, for nearly a decade, been categorized as comprehensive, as it offers significant research activity and a wide range of both undergraduate and graduate programming. The University offers a total of 120 degree programs, including nearly 50 graduate programs.

Brock President Gervan Fearon said the results “provide a clear demonstration that we are making a difference. The entire Brock community can celebrate the excellence in post-secondary education we are being recognized for delivering.”

Fearon said both the improved ranking and record enrolment speak to the positive steps forward the University is making.

“Brock is an outstanding institution that continues to make big strides in teaching and learning excellence, putting the student experience first, progressing research and scholarly activities, improving academic programming and retention efforts, and investing in the facilities and resources that make a difference to students and post-secondary education,” he said.

When it comes to the Maclean's categories involving faculty, Brock improved three spots to 11th from 14th for faculty awards, and one spot for medical/science grants to 12th.

“I'm very pleased, though not at all surprised, to see that Brock's relative ranking on faculty awards has risen considerably,” said Tim Kenyon, Vice-President, Research. “Brock University's researchers, mentors and teachers have, in recent years, been receiving more formal recognition for their long-standing excellence.”

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Brock University



The new atrium has become a hub for studying and social events at Goodman.


\$24.1 million
total cost of the project, including the expansion and deferred building maintenance.


79,000 square feet
of new and renovated space.

With its new home, Goodman means business

By Kaitlyn Little

With its \$24.1-million expansion project nearing completion, Brock's Goodman School of Business has a striking new look.

What started out as a facilities expansion to give the growing business school more physical space has in the process rooted the school at the centre of Brock's campus and given the Goodman community a sense of place.

"There's a sense of pride among everyone who comes in the building," Dean Andrew Gaudes said. "It has certainly enhanced the community feeling of the Goodman School of Business and increased its presence on campus and in the community."

A grand opening celebration for the building, which has already been buzzing with activity for months, is planned for February.

The project is a combination of new construction and an ambitious overhaul of Goodman's existing layout. It includes 79,000 square feet of new and renovated space, six new and nine renovated classrooms with state-of-the-art teaching

capabilities, five employer interview rooms, and areas to study, research and work.

However, what's quickly becoming the hub of the building is the new two-storey atrium.

"It's gratifying to see that students are coming together here," Gaudes said of the study and event space.

Aidan Gilhula, President of the Goodman Business Students' Association, said the space is giving Goodman students a gathering place.

"One of the interesting things that I've seen just wandering through and talking to people is how students are spending more time at school and having more conversations with one another," Gilhula said.

"The atrium is almost always full; there are always students in there. There's a general buzz of just passion and excitement and wanting to learn more, which is what university is all about."

The expansion's impact has spread into classroom material as well. For Goodman Operations Management Professor Ken Klassen, his work facilitating the collaboration between Goodman, Brock's Facilities Management department,

Cooper Construction and +VG Architects, has generated him a lifetime of lecture material.

"I probably give an example from this construction project in every lecture I give now in my project management course," Klassen said. "One of the most interesting things to me is how many different pieces there are to pull something like this off; how many people and groups needed to coordinate."

The Goodman building is one of several construction projects transforming Brock's main campus.

The University's eye-catching new entrance, the Rankin Family Pavilion, is slated for completion this spring. The space is a conversion of the former open-air pedestrian mall in front of Schmon Tower into a modern, purpose-built 41,000-square-foot innovation centre that places research, commercialization, entrepreneurship and innovation at Brock's entranceway.

Also on the horizon is a \$6-million expansion of the Zone fitness centre, growing the space to 15,500-square feet from its current 4,300.



Rahmat Hassan (BSc '86) and Sarah Sim (BA '86) travelled from Singapore to attend Brock's 2018 Homecoming.



Brock alumna Brittany Mastroianni (BA '08) and her future Badger Eleanor Mastroianni cheer on the Brock men's basketball team in Nova Scotia.

Engaging a world of Badgers

By Kaitlyn Daw

As of June 2018, there are more than 100,000 individuals who can point to Brock University as the post-secondary institution that helped shape part of their personal and professional journey.

While this tremendous milestone places Brock in a group of elite universities with a large network of graduates to be proud of, it also presents unique challenges for the mid-sized institution when it comes to staying connected to graduates after they cross the stage and begin to write the next chapters in their lives.

The Brock University Alumni Association (BUAA) creates opportunities for alumni to stay engaged with the Brock community with the help of alumni chapters and the Alumni Ambassador program. The BUAA's volunteer Board of Directors is dedicated to implementing new initiatives that will continue to enhance the alumni experience, no matter how many kilometres exist between Brock and its Badgers.

"This past year, we've hosted several networking events with alumni across the country and beyond," said Shelley Huxley, Director, Alumni Relations. "Besides regional events in Niagara, we've engaged

alumni in Toronto, Halifax, Ottawa, Calgary, Canmore, Vancouver, Kelowna, Trinidad-Tobago, Jamaica and New York City."



Former Brock University President Terry White and his wife Susan White, along with alumnus Rob Jennings (BA '68) and his wife Elizabeth Jennings at an alumni dinner in Canmore, Alta.

One way the BUAA aims to help graduates easily connect with the University and their peers is through alumni chapters. Divided by geographic location, chapters are comprised of a group of dedicated alumni volunteers who host events, social gatherings and information sessions. There are currently alumni

chapters in Niagara, Hamilton/Burlington, Toronto, Ottawa and Calgary, where high densities of alumni are located.

While a vast majority of Brock alumni live in Canada, there are thousands of Badgers spread across the globe in places such as the United States, Germany, Australia, France and the United Kingdom. With a network this large comes challenges for engagement that the Alumni Ambassador program aims to address.

"There are many ways alumni can get involved and stay connected to the University after they graduate," Huxley said. "The Alumni Ambassador program is something bigger than representing Brock; it provides a platform where we can continue to cultivate a culture of alumni helping alumni through events and volunteerism. The Alumni Ambassador program helps us stay connected with our alumni around the world."

Alumni are invited to apply to the Alumni Ambassador program to assist in raising the University's profile and creating valuable experiences for alumni through roles such as class reunion and regional representatives, and recruitment volunteers.

If you would like to become an Alumni Ambassador in your region, please email alumni@brocku.ca to apply.

Erasing Hate

By Kaitlyn Daw

Brock alumnus Corey Fleischer (BA '06) spent many years daunted by the question “What do you want to do with your life?”

Then one day, everything changed. The answer became clear on his way to a power-washing job in the suburbs of Montreal.

“I was sitting in my truck at a red light when I noticed a swastika spray painted on a cinder block,” Fleischer recalled. “I had all the tools necessary to remove the graffiti, but I didn’t. I just went to my job. The second I drove by it I knew I was doing something wrong and that I made a mistake.”

An hour into the job, Fleischer dropped everything, sent his employees home and drove back to the vandalized intersection to remove the graffiti with his power washer.

“The 15 seconds it took to remove that swastika gave me the feeling I had been looking for my whole life,” he said.

Fleischer was first introduced to the power-washing industry through his roommate while studying at Brock University. After graduation, he decided to start his own business in Montreal to help pay the bills while he figured out his future. He got a truck from his family’s trucking garage, installed a power washer and went to work.

After his first removal of hate graffiti, Fleischer spent five years privately scouring the city for anything flagrant towards the community scrawled in public view that he could remove. Then, in response to an upsurge in incidences of hate graffiti, Fleischer shared some photos of his erasures on Facebook. What he did not anticipate was the viral response and flood of media requests that followed.

“I erased 50 instances of hate graffiti in the first five years and now #ErasingHate removes 50 pieces a day,” Fleischer said. “This isn’t just a movement, it’s my life’s mission.”

In sharing his photos publicly, Fleischer unintentionally created the first movement of its kind that targets, locates and eliminates hate speech anywhere in the world for free. The #ErasingHate movement has more than 38,000 followers and aims to stop the cycle of hate so that marginalized communities are no longer victimized.

“A lot of people think that to make social



Corey Fleischer is no stranger to the splatter that comes with his #ErasingHate movement.

change in the world you need millions of dollars, fancy algorithms or a large network, things that are unattainable for most people,” he said. “When you think things are unattainable, you get stuck and things don’t get done. I don’t have millions of dollars. The only difference between me and anyone else is that I have a power washer, water and the drive to make a difference.”

Fleischer will receive the Brock University Alumni Association’s Community Engagement Award, which recognizes a Brock graduate who has made outstanding contributions to their community and in doing so, has enriched the lives of others. The award honours one extraordinary graduate who has made a significant contribution as a volunteer to their community.



There’s no surface Corey Fleischer won’t tackle.



The #ErasingHate movement has been gaining steam around the world.



Corey Fleischer was honoured with a 2018 Saint-Laurent Municipal Merit Award.

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Brock alumnus Patrick Valeriotte (BSc '89) and wife Caroline.

Helping the next generation of learners

By Ana McKnight

Brock alumnus Patrick Valeriotte (BSc '89) and his wife Caroline hope to pay forward the positive university experiences they had to new generations of Brock students.

When the couple discussed what they want their life legacy to be, giving back to Patrick's alma mater seemed a natural fit. "We have seen first-hand the tremendous pressures and expectations young students face and want to direct our giving toward their health and wellness so they may better cope and enjoy their time at school," Patrick said.

The couple plans to leave a contribution to Brock University in their will, allowing them to give a larger sum without impacting their current lifestyle or finances.

"It's such a simple yet effective way to help improve the lives and experiences of students beyond your lifetime," said Caroline.

A legacy gift can have a huge impact on students and the University.

In 2017-18, 2,380 undergraduate and graduate students at Brock benefitted from donor-funded scholarships, bursaries and awards worth \$4.4 million.

"Awards and bursaries are essential in supporting students in their access to post-secondary education, their success in their studies and their ability to cross the stage for Convocation," said Pamela Shanks, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations. "We are truly grateful to donors who leave a gift in their will to support Brock University students in their journey."

For more information about leaving a gift in your will, contact Tracy Geoffroy at 905-688-5550 x4519 or tgeoffroy@brocku.ca.

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