



2020-2021

ANNUAL DONOR IMPACT REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brock University is at a very exciting point in its nearly 60-year history.

While we have faced many challenges during the last 18 months, we're on track for a very exciting future, with the relocation of the Hamilton campus to Burlington, development of an Engineering program, expansion of continuing education offerings and the hosting of the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games.

As we emerge from the pandemic and adjust to the "new normal", we'll also be focusing on re-engaging with the community, and working to help the Niagara region recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Our connection to the community is part of Brock's DNA, and it's a key part of student success and academic achievement.

Brock is a university that is deeply connected to the community around it, as demonstrated by the stories of generosity on the following pages. Thanks to supporters like these, we'll continue to be able to serve our community by providing high-quality educational opportunities, making research breakthroughs and fostering a more inclusive society, now and into the future.

On behalf of all of our students, faculty and staff, thank you for your support of Brock University.

LYNN WELLS

Interim President and Provost
and Vice-President, Academic
Brock University



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & STEWARDSHIP



SONIA DUPTE

Director, Development & Stewardship,
Brock University

These are unprecedented times. COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of life on campus, and navigating the pandemic has been anything but easy.

But despite an array of challenges, our students, faculty and staff have shown their resilience and adapted to whatever COVID-19 has thrown at them. And that's thanks in no small part to your generous support.

Thanks to people like you, we've been able to increase our support of student mental health initiatives, at a time when they're needed most. We've also been able to make more opportunities available to members of underrepresented communities, and supported the work of Indigenous researchers.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of the Brock community, which has stood by the university throughout this most difficult time.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who supported Brock this year, and invite you to read on to learn more about the impact that support has on the students, researchers and staff who call Brock home.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT & EXTERNAL RELATIONS



GORD ARBEAU

Associate Vice-President,
Advancement & External Relations,
Brock University

The effects of COVID-19 on Brock University have been significant, epitomized in an empty campus that should have been humming with life last year. What's less obvious is the degree to which the community stepped up to support Brock during the most challenging time in its history.

Brock's donors are an incredibly generous group, whose support enables a wide range of programs and initiatives that allow our students and researchers to achieve excellence.

This report highlights just a few of the many stories of giving this past year, and demonstrates the strong culture of philanthropy that exists among Brock alumni and friends and across the Niagara region.

On behalf of everyone here at Brock, I want to thank each and every one of you who supported the university this year, and invite you learn more about the impact that support has on the campus community.



CELEBRATING CAMPUS SUCCESS



Brock Horizon Scholarships lend helping hand to under-represented students

SCHOOL USED TO BE A PLACE WHERE Ash Grover felt unwelcome, even rejected.

As a biracial child from a low-income, single-parent home, she was subjected to cruel taunting by her classmates and hurtful remarks from her teachers. She was told she would amount to nothing, likely to end up in prison.

But Grover, now a PhD student at Brock University, refused to let those hateful words define her. She pressed on, finding strength in her differences, excelling in high school and, ultimately, finding a sense of purpose in the world of post-secondary education.

One of 20 students chosen as the first to receive Brock's Horizon Graduate Student Scholarship, Grover is now striving to create change in higher learning to ensure people of all backgrounds feel not only welcomed, but also worthy in their academic journey.

Her research has focused on a lack of inclusivity across the post-secondary landscape, and while she acknowledges there is work yet to be done, she is proud to be a part of the steps being taken at Brock.

"I do appreciate the efforts Brock University is making and I think this scholarship is a huge step," said Grover, a wife and mother-of-two from St. Catharines.

Over the next 10 years, the Horizon Scholarship fund will provide \$1 million to high-achieving graduate students from Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) and other under-represented groups. Twenty students from research-based programs will be chosen each year to receive a one-time award of \$5,000. The scholarship is intended to help Brock attract top researchers and students from various fields while building a diverse and inclusive university community.

General Electric Canada Inc. recently made a generous commitment of \$15,000 towards supporting the Horizon Scholarship.

This year's recipients represent various research disciplines from across the University, many of them born to immigrant parents or immigrants themselves, and nearly all first-generation post-secondary students. Many of them come from low-income households, and a handful identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community. While they each have different inspiring backgrounds, they share the same level of passion for their graduate studies work.

"It's crucial that all of our students feel supported as they take on their academic journey and know the University is invested in their future," said Suzanne Curtin, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. "Our job is to remove barriers to higher education, making it accessible to under-represented groups of students and helping to create a path that encourages them to thrive."

In 2018, Brock established a new Institutional Strategic Plan that, in part, prioritizes fostering a campus culture of accessibility, reconciliation, decolonization and inclusivity. The Horizon Graduate Student Scholarship provides an important step towards achieving these objectives.

Brock holds top spot for mental health supports and climbs in student satisfaction, reputation



PROVIDING AN OUTSTANDING student experience is a pillar for Brock University, and the latest *Maclean's* University Rankings are proof that it's a goal being met.

Fuelled by growing numbers of satisfied students and a cross-campus commitment to student health and well-being, Brock has retained its No. 1 ranking among all comprehensive universities in the country for mental health supports for students. The University also rose to second in its category for overall student satisfaction and in academic advising.

Overall, Brock improved one spot to 13th in the national rankings for comprehensive universities.

But more important than the numbers themselves are what they represent: a priority placed on providing Brock students with an outstanding post-secondary education and student life experience.

Lynn Wells, Brock Provost and Vice-President, Academic, said the continued top ranking for mental health and improvement to second from fourth in student satisfaction is "a testament to the

phenomenal work we do to ensure the student experience here is among the best in the country."

"With our move up to second place nationally in the comprehensive category for student satisfaction, we have cemented our status as a university of choice for students who value the total learning experience, including excellent classes and instructors, superior student supports and a positive community environment," she said.

The *Maclean's* rankings are based on thousands of surveys from students across the country, as well as data from universities.

Other highlights from the student satisfaction portion of the rankings include Brock holding the third spot for student life staff, extracurricular activities and residence living.

Among the 15 comprehensive universities in Canada, Brock is also ranked fourth for steps to prevent sexual assault, fourth for promoting Indigenous visibility and fifth for experiential learning.

Anna Lathrop, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Students, called

the *Maclean's* rankings the result of a community effort.

"Student experience is at the heart of all of our academic and student support efforts across the campus — and this ranking attests to our commitment to ensure a positive student experience is one that is linked to so many aspects of student life, including mental health, academic advising, co-curricular experiences, residence life, inclusion and equity and of course, instructional excellence," she said.

In the National Reputational Ranking, which uses a single field for universities of all sizes, Brock improved six places from last year to 32nd out of 49 Canadian universities rated. These rankings are determined from surveys of faculty, senior administrators and a variety of businesspeople across the country. In sub-categories, Brock improved 10 spots to 29th for most innovative, four spots to 26th for leaders of tomorrow and two spots to 34th for highest quality.

Brock also made *Maclean's* list of some of Canada's Best Programs, ranking Brock's Education program 15th in the country.



Brock Earth Sciences professor lands Mars mission role

WHEN THE ONLY KNOWN planet in the galaxy inhabited entirely by robots welcomed a new resident in February, it marked the continuation of Mariek Schmidt's long-standing commitment to research.

The Brock University Earth Sciences Professor is a Participating Scientist with the NASA Mars 2020 Mission, which landed on the Red Planet's Jezero Crater on Feb. 18. It is Schmidt's third Mars rover mission.

Supported by the Canadian Space Agency, Schmidt is representing Brock as the only scientist from a Canadian Institution for this round of Participating Scientists. She is one of 13 Participating Scientists who were chosen for the role from 119 applicants.

Perseverance will collect rock and soil samples for eventual return to Earth, but it will take some time — more than a decade, in fact — before Schmidt can hopefully study the samples collected millions of miles away.

"The length of the prime mission for Perseverance is two years, but NASA

anticipates it will go much longer than that," said Schmidt. "It's possible the rover will still be operating on Mars when the samples we are collecting now are returned to Earth."

That delivery is not expected to take place until about 2034, but that hasn't lessened Schmidt's interest.

"I would love to study the samples, so I'm in for the long haul," she said without hesitation.

With the endgame in mind, she is embracing her role as a Participating Scientist, proposing ways to use the rover's Planetary Instrument for X-Ray Lithochemistry (PIXL) as it moves across the rugged terrain. The PIXL is an x-ray fluorescence spectrometer used to determine the fine scale elemental composition of Martian surface materials.

Currently, the only available information about the geology comes from images.

"We can see that there are rocks distributed around, there are deposits of sand that were transported by wind and coarser gravel-rich soil between the sands," Schmidt said.

The geological differences between

Earth and Mars are varied. Mars today is a predominantly Aeolian planet, meaning its sand only moves by wind and unlike Earth, Mars does not have continents or sand moved by water.

Most of Earth's sandstone is made of quartz, while the sandstones on Mars are richer in iron and magnesium making it basaltic sand, like the black sands in Hawaii or Iceland.

Faculty of Mathematics and Science Dean Ejaz Ahmed called this "an exciting time for science and a triumph of ingenuity."

"Schmidt's research has broadened Brock's reach beyond the national stage far into the cosmos."

Brock raises more than \$250,000 to support student mental health



AFTER COMMITTING TO IMPROVING STUDENT mental health supports with the launch of a new Student Mental Health Fund, Brock University surpassed its ambitious fundraising goal of \$250,000 in less than a year.

Surpassing the goal was made possible through the generosity of the Brock University Students' Union (BUSU), Niagara Community Foundation, the Board of Trustees Impact Fund and several individual donors, including Brock alumni, faculty, staff and community members. Notably, an anonymous donor recognized the need for additional mental health support and made the commitment to double the impact of funds raised up to \$50,000.

"This successful fundraiser shows the strength of the Brock community to come together to support those in need, especially in the current climate of a global pandemic," said Anna Lathrop, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Students. "The well-being and mental health of Brock students continues to be a main priority, and these funds, which will enhance our mental health services, are just one way of showing our commitment to improving the support and resources for our students."

The fundraising campaign was launched in response to the increasing mental health needs of students, as nearly half of Brock students say they have been affected by mental health issues.

The need for increased access to mental health resources to support students in their academic success and mental well-being has been an ongoing priority for the University, especially as students navigate the shift to online learning and virtual support due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That need was especially noticed by BUSU.

"Our mission is to foster an ever-improving student experience that is transformational, enriching and empowering. A cornerstone of achieving that mission has been our contributions to mental health services," said 2020-21 BUSU President Asad Jalib. "Contributing towards this cause in the midst of the challenging circumstances our students are facing right now has been extremely important to our team."

In 2018, BUSU made a commitment to contribute \$320,000 over two years towards mental health services on campus. When that campaign ended last year, the decision was made to extend the initiative for an additional \$160,000 towards the Student Mental Health Fund.

"Our generous donors have stepped up and these gifts will directly support and help improve services for students," said Sonia Dupte, Director, Development and Stewardship, Advancement and External Relations. "These funds help meet the increasing demand and continue to build on Brock's No. 1 ranking for mental health services in Canada."

The funds raised for the Student Mental Health Fund will continue to enhance the supports available to students by increasing and improving services for those seeking mental health resources. Brock will be able to increase programming in response to surging needs and provide greater access to clinical support staff.



Brock earns Top 100 world ranking for sport science programs

THE SPORT MANAGEMENT AND KINESIOLOGY

programs at Brock University have developed a reputation as being among the best in the country.

Now, that reputation has reached the international level.

In the QS University World Rankings released earlier this year, Brock University was ranked in the Top 100 in the Sports Science category, which covers the programs and research of its Departments of Kinesiology and Sport Management.

The rankings are not broken down further than Brock being in the of the Top 51 to 100 of all schools around the world, ranking it alongside the University of Waterloo and Cornell, and ahead of Queen's, which finished in the Top 101 to 120 class.

"The recognition as being ranked among the Top 100 world programs provides tangible evidence of this quality," said Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Dean Peter Tiidus. "The faculty and staff of these programs deserve the credit for their outstanding research and teaching which has resulted in this recognition.

He said the outstanding reputation of the Kinesiology and Sport Management programs is also closely tied to the strong network of alumni, which includes national and international leaders in their respective fields.

"They provide future Brock graduates with role models and mentors to advance their career development," he said. "The inclusion of Brock's Sport Management and Kinesiology programs among the best in Canada and the world is a testament to the reputation these programs have built over the decades."

The QS University World Rankings compare up to 550 institutions around the world in each category and rank them based on things such as academic reputation, employer reputation and research citations per paper.

"The QS rankings are a significant international exercise, and one to which the academic world pays attention," said Brock Provost and Vice-President, Academic Lynn Wells. "Brock's success in this year's rankings is well-deserved recognition for all of the hard work that Dean Peter Tiidus and all faculty, staff and students in the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences put every day into growing and developing our sport science programs. The rankings highlight this hard work and will work to attract new attention to the programs, which will in turn help bring more exceptional students and researchers to Brock."

Kinesiology and Sport Management are among five departments run by the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences. The Faculty also operates the Departments of Health Sciences, Nursing, and Recreation and Leisure Studies, along with five specialty community service and research centres, including the Brock-Niagara Centre for Health and Well-Being, the Centre for Bone and Muscle Health, the Centre for Youth Sport and Physical Activity, the Centre for Sport Capacity, and the recently launched Brock Centre for Excellence in Inclusive and Adaptive Physical Activity.



DONOR STORIES



Brock's renowned Education program leads to memorial donation

WHEN JOE STANZIANI DECIDED TO HONOUR his mother's legacy by working with a post-secondary institution known to have a highly regarded Education program, it didn't take him long to land on Brock University.

With the exception of one of her grandchildren graduating from Brock last year, Stanziani's mother Angela Stanziani's connection to Brock was more about the deep-seeded value she placed in education.

The generous gift from the Stanziani family will be used to create an endowed award known as the Angela L. Stanziani Educator Bursary.

"Our mother was a firm believer in the value of education and was a teacher and educator all the days of her life," said Joe Stanziani. "We're extremely proud of the legacy she has left behind and all the valuable lessons she taught us as a mom and teacher."

The award will be given each year to a student in need of financial assistance studying in Brock's Teacher Education program, with preference given to students who plan to pursue teaching special education.

Born in San Francisco in 1938, Angela Stanziani was an only child to her father Frank Stanz, a chef, and her stay-at-home mother Cecilia. After graduating from the All-Girls College of Notre Dame in San Francisco with a Bachelor of Arts Education Degree and two teaching credentials, Angela spent three years teaching elementary school in California before marrying Dr. Victor Stanziani of Hamilton, Ontario in 1963.

The couple moved to Hamilton and started a family, having six children from 1965 to 1975 including Victor Jr., John, Frank, Joseph, Cecilia and Mary.

Angela put her teaching degree to good use, raising and teaching the children in their early years as a stay-at-home mom. When the kids started attending elementary school, she volunteered at their school, and continued doing so for many years after they had moved on to secondary school and beyond.

Angela passed away at her home in Binbrook on April 19, 2020.

In looking for a way to leave a lasting legacy in honour of his mother, Joe Stanziani decided a bursary to help future students would be exactly what she would have wanted.

"Our family truly hopes that the recipients of this award become great teachers and carry on her passion and dedication to the profession of teaching and to the education of young boys and girls who turn out to be good young men and young women," he said.

Murphy turns tragedy into a legacy of giving



FOR NEARLY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, Tim Murphy's friends, family and work colleagues have gathered together each fall for a round of golf with very deep meaning.

Shortly after the sudden passing of his wife Wendy in March 1997, Murphy (BA '93; MA '95) and Wendy's sister Tammy launched the Wendy Murphy Memorial Fund, financially assisting future Brock University students just as both he and his wife had been helped during their university careers.

Tim Murphy is now a Professor of Psychology at Brock, and for the past 24 years he has helped organize a fall golf tournament with the goal of continually helping students who exemplify the characteristics that made Wendy both an excellent scholar and exceptional person.

"We were both supported by scholarships when pursuing our graduate education, so I know the difference scholarships made to us as graduate students," Murphy said. "My hope was, and continues to be, that we could make the same difference for Brock students throughout the years."

Murphy and his wife were both part of the first cohort of Psychology master's students at Brock and, when the scholarship launched, there were no awards specifically for that program.

Wendy had been a top student and star athlete as a child, but developed a neuromuscular disease when she was 11 that left her near death several times and essentially confined to a bed or wheelchair for years. She defied the odds, finishing elementary and high school and regaining almost full use of her legs by the time she was 19.

She chose to attend Brock University, earning an undergraduate degree in English in 1990 and then a second in Psychology in 1993 before earning her master's in Psychology in 1995.

Diagnosed with a rare form of Leukemia in December 1996 just after beginning a PhD at the University of Waterloo, she approached this obstacle with the same resolve and determination she displayed earlier in her life. Following three months of hospitalization and chemotherapy, Wendy was pronounced free of the disease, but passed away suddenly from a suspected heart arrhythmia on March 26, 1997.

The terms of the award come from the welcoming and friendly qualities Wendy demonstrated. Student recipients selected embody the philosophy of a 'good head and good heart' and show involvement in the Brock and Niagara community and are proactive in making the world a better place in whatever way they choose.

In addition to the funds raised through the golf tournament and other avenues, Murphy has also made a point to support the fund through a payroll deduction, which is an option for all Brock employees.

As the fund has grown, so has its impact, with two students each year now receiving the award.

For the 20th anniversary of the fundraising golf tournament, Murphy tracked down the award recipients to see what they had gone on to achieve. Many had gone on to do great things and often in professions that help people.

"I hope this award helps other students to live out the dreams that Wendy did not have the chance to experience," said Murphy.



Award-winning professor wanted to help students through estate gift

IN THE CONVERSATION OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL

women in Brock University's history, the name of Mary Frances Richardson often comes up.

When the former Professor of Chemistry passed away in September 2020 shortly after turning 79, she left behind a lasting legacy for Brock.

During her time at the University, she was both an award-winning professor and a trailblazer for women in her field, implementing initiatives that are still in place at Brock today.

A vigilant leader in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), Richardson encouraged and advocated for women to pursue careers in chemistry, while also creating an innovative revision of Brock's curriculum for Chemistry students.

Her hard work did not go unnoticed and in 1992 she was named the Canadian Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

But her trailblazing work wasn't just limited to the Department of Chemistry.

In late 1989, female professors in each of Brock's Faculties, as well as a number of librarians, met to organize Brock's Centre for Women's Studies, which was established in memory of the 14 female Engineering students who were killed at École Polytechnique in Montréal. Richardson chaired the organizing committee, and the new program — known today at Women's and Gender Studies — was approved by Brock's Senate in December 1990.

Richardson was a financial supporter of the University throughout her career, assisting her department, capital projects and various student awards in the areas of Math, Physics, Women's Studies, Music, English and Chemistry.

Even after her passing in 2020, her legacy of student support continued, as her estate left a gift to Brock to establish an endowed fund. The Mary Frances Richardson Bursary Fund will support Brock University students in any area of study who demonstrate financial need.

Richardson's intent was to help students pursue education by providing financial support, just as similar support had enabled her to attend university.

"These important planned gifts to Brock University are arranged through an individual's will and allow the person to know they'll have a lasting impact on future generations for students," said Sonia Dupte, Director of Development and Stewardship for Brock University. "Gifts of this nature leave a significant legacy at Brock and are an important component of the future of the institution."

Like many others before her, Mary Frances Richardson's name will now be added to the Major-General's Legacy Circle, which recognizes and honours those friends of Brock University who have made a commitment to the future of this institution by including Brock in their estate plans.

Support of Brock alumni couple having direct impact on students



WHEN ROSE CHAN (BA '91; BBA '93) AND HER husband William Mak (BSc '91) visited Brock University two years ago, they were touched by something they saw which, to many, could have seemed insignificant.

In a fairly non-descript corner of the Brock University Library was a room filled with high-tech equipment and high school students were being taught how to use 3D printers.

"We enjoyed the collaboration of having advanced equipment and supervisors supporting students to explore their creative side," said Chan of seeing the early iteration of what is now the Library's Makerspace, located in the Rankin Family Pavilion. "It was a free campus to explore. Instead of going to a course and then applying the knowledge, it allowed creative freedom through this collaboration with the community."

Chan and Mak have been long-time donors to the University, and their support is often directed at areas closest to their hearts: giving students the ability to learn using the best technology available.

Chan, a Certified Public Accountant working as a consultant in the financial sector and Mak, who works in the tech field, first started supporting Brock through a program that saw the government match donated funds.

Though they lived outside Canada for more than a decade, when they came back to Canada, they quickly saw the impact the University was still having on students and the community around it.

"When we were students, we enjoyed the aspect of the school being small, intimate and supportive," said Mak. "It's different than being in a big school and getting lost in the system. And yet in the 20 years since we graduated, I don't think the school has stood still. We see Brock moving up in the MacLean's rankings and more students are interested in coming here because of that.

"There's a lot of exciting opportunities happening and the school is progressing," he said.

A few years ago, the couple decided to get more involved after talking about what would be most impactful for students.

"Our interest lies in the technology side of things, and we know the equipment is expensive," said Chan. "But if you have up-to-date equipment, the school will have an advantage."

So, Chan and Mak have focused on helping get new technology for students to learn on — whether that's computers for those getting into the technology field or lab simulators for those headed into the medical field.

"It's important to us to give to the students and having the right technology is crucial to their experience," said Chan. "If we have any opportunity to support that and contribute, we will because we benefitted from others supporting Brock when we needed it in our time."

And while they may be important contributors to current students, their own academic careers might not be done yet.

Chan and Mak have often looked at Brock's part-time studies as an option for a post-retirement activity.



Board of Trustees supporting Brock students through Impact Fund

BILL RICKERS (BA '77) REMEMBERS BEING A student and can only imagine what his Brock University experience would have been like had the COVID-19 pandemic hit when he was in school.

The University Board of Trustees member is a partner at Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Professional Accountants and has learned first-hand what the past year has been like from the Brock co-op students working for him.

"I appreciate how difficult it is for them in part because I know how difficult it would have been for me," said Rickers. "When I was attending Brock, the ability to attend lectures and interact with my fellow students was really integral to my Brock experience."

While many Board of Trustee members like Rickers are able to support students through work placements and job opportunities, a Board committee led by Rickers also launched the Board of Trustees Impact Fund in early 2020 as a way to assist students through personal donations trustees are making.

"As a Board, we're always looking for other ways to support the University and it occurred to me that this would be a relatively easy way to do that," he said.

At the time of its launch, the trustees had no idea just how important their contributions would become. Today, that fund is being used to support the COVID-19 Emergency Bursaries, student mental health services, food security and other areas.

"It's a cliché, but giving is far more rewarding than receiving," said Board of Trustees Chair Gary Comerford. "I get so much

enjoyment out of giving — whether it's time or financial resources — than probably anything. I can't think of a better place to spend my giving donations than to further education. It can benefit our students, the community and society in general."

Comerford said Board of Trustee members — who represent a wide range of sectors and backgrounds — were invited to donate whatever they're comfortable.

"It really is a manifestation of the commitment of trustees to the success of the University," he said. "It reinforces the idea of giving back to the community. We can all give back in different ways. For some it's money and for others, it's time."

For Rickers, the contributions from trustees also reinforces that the Board, like Brock itself, is student-focused.

"It really does reflect the reality of how important our students are to the members of the Board," he said. "Sometimes the Board, by its nature, is perceived as being business-like and financial- or data-driven, but the empathy and concern the Board feels for students is real."

The five-year Brock Trustees Impact Fund will support the following key priorities:

- Student bursaries and scholarships
- New academic programs and capital infrastructure
- Strategic research leadership
- Student health and wellness
- Indigenous student support



Collection rich with Canadian history gifted to Brock University

A GENEROUS DONATION HAS PLACED A nationally significant collection filled with Canadian history in the hands of Brock University.

Brock's Archives and Special Collections is now home to the Alexander Hamilton collection, a compilation of documents detailing the growth of the Canadian postal system and profiling the life of Hamilton, a prominent businessman and influential community leader who played a large role in making Niagara — and Canada — what it is today.

Valued at just under \$350,000, the collection includes about 2,500 pieces and has been recognized as culturally significant by the Department of Canadian Heritage. It was donated to Brock on behalf of the estate of Robert Band by relatives Christopher and Eric Taylor, Julia MacDonald and Martin Woodruff Band.

Upon discovering the collection amongst his late uncle's belongings, Christopher Taylor immediately knew he wanted to share his findings with the University, to which his family has previously made historically significant contributions.

"When I discovered what the material was, even my little knowledge of history told me that it was important," Taylor said. "I knew I had to get it to the right place, where the community at large could have access."

The Alexander Hamilton collection is a prime example of a non-monetary gift that will have a lasting impact on the University, its students and researchers, said Sonia Dupre, Brock's Director, Development and Stewardship.

"While generous financial support is important for a university, gifts of this nature enable us to preserve history and add to the cultural wealth of the institution and the region," she said. "Thoughtful gifts to Brock University can come in all shapes and sizes and we hope people feel inspired to continue to support Brock."

"We're grateful to the family of Robert Band for preserving this valuable Canadian history and for their continued support of Brock University throughout the years."

Known warmly to many as 'Uncle Bob,' Robert Band passed away in September 2013, leaving behind a spectacular collection of historically significant artifacts. Among those artifacts were the Hamilton collection donated recently, as well as the Woodruff Family collection, which Taylor and his family donated on behalf of his uncle's estate in 2015. That collection included 150 years of records documenting the prominent Woodruff family's influence in Niagara and also received a federal cultural property certification.



The Hamilton collection was purchased for 17 cents at a garage sale in the 1940s by Band's father Percy, who was also an avid collector.

With a passion for history that runs deep, Band's family made both donations to the University with the intention of seeing the material shared with the Brock and wider community. Being able to provide access to that history and potentially spark further research holds great meaning, Taylor said.

David Sharron, Brock's Head of Archives and Special Collections, describes the Alexander Hamilton donation as a "flagship collection" for the University that is expected to inspire countless research projects.

A "mover and shaker" in his time, Hamilton had a "finger in every little bit of history that happened around here," Sharron said. "He was the sheriff. He was the postmaster. He was a judge. He worked in the fur trade business for a little while and was in the War of 1812.

"During those years, you couldn't do anything without Alexander Hamilton's influence. He got things done and I think the Niagara area benefits from his legacy."

While Hamilton's life has been documented "bit by bit" through various historical pieces held by different organizations, there has never been a collection as comprehensive as the one now housed at Brock, Sharron said.

"This is an absolute treasure in a sense that anyone who wants to study Hamilton would have had to go to many different repositories to pull this information together," he said. "For generations now with the Band family, these papers have been kept together and have created a one-stop shop."

Detailing the history of Niagara predominantly in the 1810s through the 1830s, the material also offers a look into the early Canadian postal system, showcasing how rates were chosen, how international mail worked between Canada and the United States, and how the growth of the system influenced the growth of Canada.

"The collection tells a story about us as Canadians," Sharron said, adding the certification "puts us in a good position to steward this material and be a part of the greater understanding of our history.

"This will draw attention, but ultimately it's really about the students, researchers and community members who can come in and use these materials."

Taylor said his family loves seeing people "captivated" by the pieces contained within the collection. They have been impressed, he added, by both physical and digital displays Brock has put together with their past donation and are excited to see the same happen with the latest addition.

"There's no better place for the history as recorded in these documents," Taylor said. "Brock University has been extraordinarily good to us as beneficiaries and to the name of Robert Band."

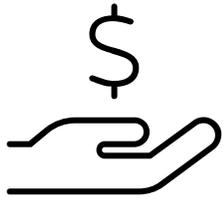




FINANCIAL IMPACT

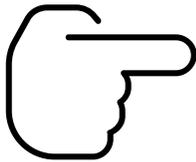
TOTAL DONATIONS

\$5,107,333



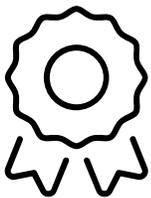
TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS

695



FIRST TIME DONORS

174



FUNDS SUPPORTING STUDENT AWARDS

639



AVERAGE DONOR-FUNDED STUDENT AWARD

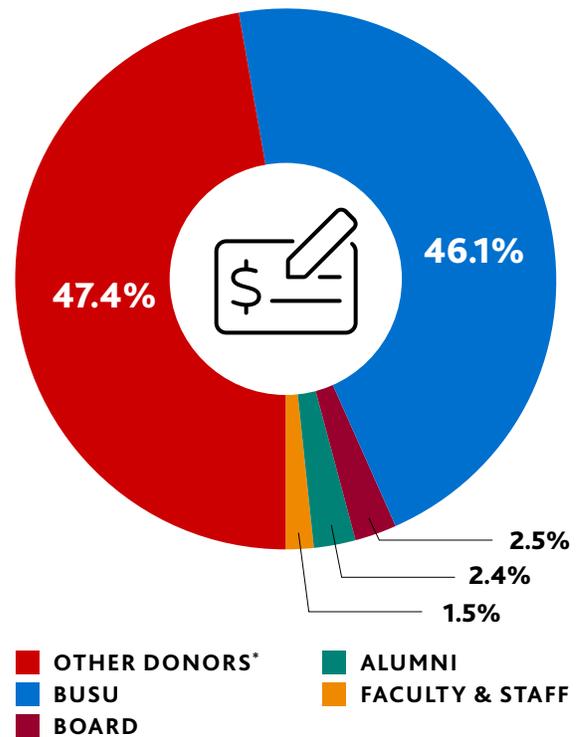
\$1,480



PERCENTAGE OF ALUMNI DONORS

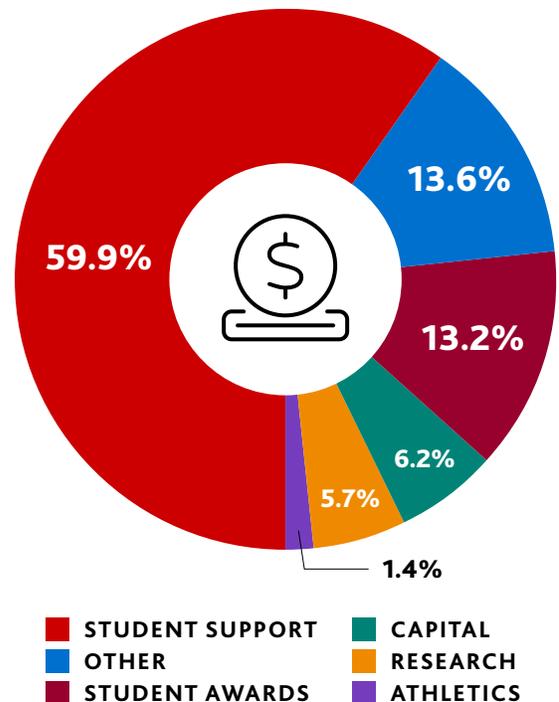
46.6%

DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR STUDENT WELLNESS AND STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH (% BY CONSTITUENCY)



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WHERE DO GIFTS MAKE AN IMPACT: PROPORTION OF 2020-21 DONATIONS RECEIVED



“Thank you for inspiring me to one day give back to students like you gave to me. When I look back at my memories at Brock, I will always think of you.”



“Your sincere generosity and kindness have made my experience at Brock University much more enjoyable and I cannot express enough gratitude towards your inspiring actions. It is through these inspiring actions that I have been able to strive for excellence and work towards my goals and ambitions. I hope one day I will be able to help other students in both their studies and athletics, just as you selflessly helped me. I cannot thank you enough.”

“Thank you for your generosity. I am happy to study in the new classrooms. You have helped me have this life-changing opportunity to pursue my academic dreams.”





“Thank you very much for supporting Brock University. Your kind donations are inspiring hope for a better future for our students, as well as our institution as a whole.”

“You have greatly lightened my financial burden, which will allow me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”



“I decided to study at Brock University because from the minute I stepped inside the Marilyn I. Walker building for my audition three years ago, I felt like I belonged there. I could tell that all of the professors were passionate about what they do, and I loved the close sense of community between the students and professors.”



WHAT'S NEW & UPCOMING

Brock University is headed to the city of Burlington

BROCK UNIVERSITY HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL relocate its current Hamilton campus to a more accessible location in Burlington, to better serve students and the broader community.

In the fall of 2020, Brock and the City of Burlington signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together to find a site and to realize the intention for the relocated campus. After the MOU was approved by Burlington city council and the University's Board of Trustees, work got underway to find a location.

Besides agreeing to search for a new campus site, the MOU also calls for Brock and the City to seek opportunities to use the University's assets and resources in other collaborative efforts that will benefit the Burlington community.

By the spring, it appeared a location in Burlington to house the next Brock campus was close to being identified with an announcement expected this summer.

Brock has for 20 years operated a satellite campus on King Street East in Hamilton, serving mainly as a site for teacher education. In November 2019 the University determined that the converted 1960s high school would be too costly to update. Brock opted to sell the property and seek a replacement site in the Hamilton-Burlington-Oakville corridor that is more adaptable for university purposes, and better meets students' needs such as being closer to public transit and main road networks.

Brock President Gervan Fearon praised Burlington officials

for helping the University identify suitable candidate sites that are located close to the GO commuter rail system and QEW highway access.

"Over the decades, Brock has developed a relationship with the Hamilton-Burlington-Oakville communities, and we have seen strong growth in student enrolment from across these communities," said Fearon. "It is important for us to be able to more effectively serve our students, faculty, staff and community partners across the region that includes Niagara and the Burlington corridor. We are focused on contributing to community growth and vitality. We appreciate the City of Burlington's partnership, as achieving this will be a win for all parties."

Burlington Mayor Marianne Meed Ward called the announcement "truly exciting news for Burlington."

"It's also been a goal of mine for the past 10 years, and part of our City's Strategic Plan, so it's great to see it finally coming together. It's a win-win not just for Brock University, but Burlington will also benefit from getting a foothold in the post-secondary undergraduate world. This will bring more students and workers to our community and I couldn't be more thrilled to see it happening."

Brock completed the sale of its Hamilton campus in September, in an agreement that gives the University the option of continuing to conduct teaching and research there until August 2022, allowing it time to obtain and prepare a replacement facility.



Brock launches Department of Engineering in preparation for bold new programming



BROCK UNIVERSITY HAS TAKEN THE NEXT BIG step towards its goal of launching dynamic Engineering programs that teach “outside the book” and focus on the employability of students.

In May, the University Senate approved the formation of the Department of Engineering — a historic move for Brock.

This was the first time since its inaugural year that Brock has created a department that hasn’t grown from an existing program. Although the University announced Engineering programs were on the horizon last year, the creation of the department allows this new academic initiative to be realized.

“This is a monumental development for Brock University,” said President Gervan Fearon. “The creation of the Department of Engineering is years in the making and to see it come to fruition is a success to be celebrated by the entire University community. It adds an important academic program in demand by students, and it supports the economic vitality of the region — these items are directly aligned with the strategic priorities of the University.”

Brock plans to welcome its first cohort of 100 Integrated Engineering students for the 2023-24 academic year. Students will explore topics such as big data, artificial intelligence, medical devices, sustainability and climate change, robot automation, manufacturing and transportation. Until then, a minor program in Engineering Science is set to launch in September 2021.

Integrated Engineering takes key concepts from traditional engineering fields — such as mechanical, civil and electrical — and brings them together into a single coherent program where students learn about each field as well as the connections between them.

Brock will be one of only three Canadian universities offering Integrated Engineering programs at the undergraduate level.

With student employability at its core, Brock’s program is intended to produce graduates who are skilled in communication, instinctively collaborative and inherently transdisciplinary in their approach to problem-solving.

Through a variety of experiential learning opportunities, students will gain real-world experience, build industry connections and enhance their professional skills.

“This dynamic program will give students a competitive edge in the technology-driven economy, providing them with not only the skills needed to succeed, but also industry experience that employers value,” said Lynn Wells, Brock’s Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

Response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive thus far, Wells said, with engineering firms and other industry groups offering support and looking to build connections for future student work terms and work integrated learning opportunities.

The process is currently underway to hire the Department of Engineering’s first three dedicated faculty members, who will lay the groundwork for the program’s launch and oversee the hiring of additional academics. Given the interdisciplinary nature of Brock’s Engineering program, a number of shared hires are also planned, with three underway.

More information on Engineering at Brock is available at brocku.ca/mathematics-science/engineering



Brock launches its first Indigenous Research Grant

IN THE MONTHS BEFORE SHE BECAME ACTING

Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement, Robyn Bourgeois led a process that was to yield a first for Brock University's Indigenous researchers and researchers studying Indigenous topics.

The Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies held extensive consultations with Two Row Council, the Aboriginal Education Council, other Indigenous members of the Brock community and staff from the Office of Research Services to prepare the Terms of Reference for an unprecedented internal funding source.

The University's first-ever Indigenous Research Grant, valued up to \$7,500 per proposal, launched for applications from Brock faculty in early 2021.

"We are really looking to support research that is Indigenous-centred: developed in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples and contributing in positive, reciprocal ways to Indigenous Peoples," says Bourgeois.

Research and creative activities led by, or in partnership with, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples are being given priority, although research proposals involving Indigenous Peoples located around the world are also welcome.

Topics identified through the consultations as being high priority include social innovation related to Indigenous issues, knowledge-based practices in the development of Indigenous curriculum, understanding health service utilization by Indigenous Peoples, factors influencing recruitment and retention of Indigenous students, governance and leadership,

knowledge-based practices for volunteerism with Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous health practices and promotion, Indigenous language revitalization, addressing violence against Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous community-driven research agendas.

The grant aims to help researchers develop their research programs and creative activities so they can apply to external granting agencies such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for funding, among others.

It also aims to support a more equitable and just way of scholarship, says Bourgeois.

"It's research that centres Indigenous ways of knowing and doing and resists extractive research relationships where Indigenous Peoples are treated as objects of study and, instead, ensures that they are partners in the creation of knowledge and in processes including the development of research strategies, ownership of data and dissemination of findings," she says.

The grant, and Indigenous-centred research, reflect the wider direction the University is taking, says Vice-President, Research Tim Kenyon.

"The program supports multiple pillars of the Brock Institutional Strategic Plan, especially building research capacity, and supporting a culture of reconciliation and decolonization," he says.

"I'm grateful to colleagues on Two Row Council and the Aboriginal Education Council for their input on the program, and to Dr. Robyn Bourgeois for her work over the past year in facilitating that input and crafting the program details."



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