BROCK UNIVERSITY MEDIA RELEASE

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10 years of OEVI graduating excellence

Graduates, guests and friends of Brock's Oenology and Viticulture (OEVI) program had a special homecoming today to mark the 10th anniversary of the first graduating class. Grads from as far away as California returned to the university to reminisce about their experiences, both pre- and post-graduation and to enjoy wines made by alumni from the program.

Created in 1997, Brock's OEVI was the only grape and wine degree program of its kind in Canada. The program was established to meet the growing needs of the grape and wine industry in Canada.

OEVI students and researchers benefit from the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) at Brock, one of a handful of cool climate research centres in the world.

Students in the program receive a comprehensive scientific education, combined with practical skills in grape growing and winemaking, and exposure to business, tourism and wine appreciation.

CCOVI has trained over 40 PhD, master's students and post-doctoral fellows, and Brock overall has produced close to 100 graduates through the OEVI program.

Here is what grads say about the program:

"A CCOVI degree opens a lot of doors for people. This career is better than I ever hoped - I really do have a dream job." - Elizabeth Grant-Douglas, Class of 2000, Head Winemaker at La Crema Winery, Sonoma County, California, U.S.

"CCOVI certainly provides one of the best and most solid foundations from which you can build a very successful career." - Megan Schofield, Class of 2000, Assistant Winemaker at Simi Winery, Sonoma Valley, California, U.S.

"CCOVI was a great first step and will always be the start of my career. It formed the basis for my desire to see more of the wine world." - Conor van der Reest, Class of 2001, Head Winemaker at Moorilla, Tasmania, Australia

"I wouldn't be where I am today, or have advanced as quickly as I did, without the education I received at Brock. The depth of scientific knowledge and practical techniques has been a huge asset and allowed me to succeed. I now have a solid foundation on which I will forever build." - Adam McTaggart, Class of 2005, Winemaker/Vineyard Manager at Boxwood Winery, Virginia, U.S.

"CCOVI prepared me for my career in the grape and wine industry by giving me a strong understanding of wine fermentation and analysis. This allows me to create, each year, the highest quality wines possible." - Andrew Shelswell, Class of 2007, Assistant Winemaker and Head Distiller at Jost Vineyards, Nova Scotia, Canada

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