

The Mentors' Memo

A newsletter made by the FMS Mentors



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Starting Strong: FMS Mentors Welcome Our Newest Badgers

By Sophie Della Manna, ConEd Physics

On Thursday July 16th, 61 incoming first-year Faculty of Math and Science students joined us in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre for the very first FMS Mentors' panel and social event, as part of their Smart Start summer orientation that same day.

At this event, the new first-year students had the opportunity to listen and learn, and to ask questions and receive authentic responses from a group of 15 FMS Mentors in a variety of programs and years of study, with representation from Biological Sciences, Physics, Computer Science, Game Programming, and more. Our Mentors began by introducing themselves and their journey at Brock, to give the new students a feel for the supportive and encouraging mentorship network built by students, for them! This also included an overview of the inaugural year's events, such as the Pumpkin Carving Social and Study Jams, as well as an introduction to Dawn Kakiroko, our wellness liaison from SWAC.



The conversational panel was initiated by a handful of questions collaboratively brainstormed by the Mentors, in which they discussed finding relevant sources of information for academics and social life, getting involved on campus, their experiences with residence and/or living off-campus, and what types of on-campus employment exist for students. Mentors also answered several questions from the new students throughout, ranging from curiosity about exams, to accommodations, to the activities hosted by FMS Clubs. After this Q&A period, students connected with Mentors to talk face-to-face, and were invited to continue their conversations over lunch, catered by our Decew Dining Hall.

All attendees left with a swag bag, complete with an FMS Mentorship tote and carefully curated essentials for first year --- and we are hopeful they left with a smile and sense of belonging as FMS Badgers!

Waking Early to Support Registration

*By Kayleigh Murray,
Biology & Earth Sciences*

First year registration is stressful but to combat that the FMS Mentors hosted an Instagram Live featuring the FMS Advising team! Starting at a very early 5:45am on June 25th, we had over 70 students tune in and ask questions during their registration! We were live for ~2 hours and hopefully left students with a sense of being supported through the process!



FMS Student Clubs Represent At Nikola Tesla Science And Innovation Day

By Khush Patel,
Computer Science

On July 11th, four Brock University clubs attended the Nikola Tesla Fest's Science & Innovation Day, in front of the historic Niagara Parks Power Station. This year's festival marked two special milestones at once, the 170th anniversary of Tesla's Birth, and the 130th anniversary of the very site where his alternating current system first sent electricity to a city.

A Brock University student active in the university's Serbian community club, reached out to Brock FMS, which opened the door for FMS clubs to take part in the event. From there, the Computer Science Club, Physics Club, Engineering Society, and Biological Society each brought their own corner of STEM to life for the families who stopped by.

For example, at the Computer Science table, kids pressed a button wired to a microcontroller to complete a circuit, which offered a hands-on way to visualize how electrical energy travels from a source to a destination. This simple action demonstrates the foundational concept of power delivery that Tesla scaled up with his revolutionary alternating current system, which allowed electricity to travel over vast distances to light up entire cities. The Physics Club ran a Tesla coil paired with elemental glass tubes that stayed dark until brought close to the coil's field, then burst into glowing colour, illustrating the principles of wireless gas discharge and electric field ionization Tesla pioneered in the 1890's.



What stood out most was how naturally the four disciplines complemented each other. It was a reminder that Tesla's own legacy was never confined to one field, and that a festival celebrating him is, fittingly, best represented by more than one.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our tables, and to the student connection that made Brock's presence at Tesla Fest possible in the first place.

Undergraduate Symposium: A Student Perspective

By Robert Cruickshank, Neurobiology

This was my first year attending and participating in the Brock Faculty of Mathematics and Science Research Symposium, and it was an amazing opportunity to see undergraduate students come together to showcase their research and share their work with their peers. The symposium created an engaging environment where students were able to practice presenting their research while also learning about the wide range of work being conducted across the faculty.

As a neuroscience student, I am primarily involved in the biological sciences, so the symposium offered a valuable opportunity to step outside my own discipline and learn more about the diverse and impactful research being conducted by undergraduate students across Brock. The symposium was a great opportunity for students attending to learn more about research at Brock, while also providing those presenting with a supportive environment to showcase their work and build confidence participating in academia.

This is a resource and opportunity that more students should be aware of. It is a great way to learn about the research being conducted at Brock for those interested in getting involved, while also allowing undergraduate researchers to hone their presentation skills and receive valuable feedback through sharing what may be their first research project.

Winners from the Annual
Undergraduate Research Symposium

Sophie Della Manna
Awarded Outstanding Poster
Presentation from the Office
of the Dean. Presented by
Dean Peter Berg



Robert Cruickshank
Awarded Outstanding Poster
Presentation from the Office
of the Dean. Presented by
Dean Peter Berg

Alaa Masaoud
Awarded Outstanding Poster
Presentation from the Office
of the Dean. Presented by
Dean Peter Berg



FMS Orientation Faculty Lunch

All Faculty are welcome to join! Get to know first year students & FMS clubs!

When: September 8th, 12:30-3pm

Where: Jubilee Court