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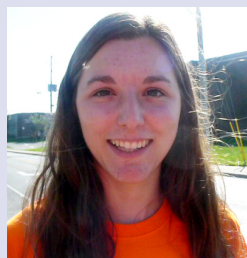
W: brocku.ca/blcs

Words from our members



Eleni Nicolaides
First Year
Political Science

My first year in the BLCS gave me the chance to work with a group of supportive and like-minded students, allowing me to further develop my leadership skills. The BLCS has been the perfect outlet for me to thrive academically and also contribute to both my school and community through volunteer work.



Charissa DiMarco
Second Year
Con-Ed

This year I volunteered with Conversation Partners. Each week I met with an ESL student to help the student practise speaking English. I also started a Fair Trade Club at Brock. Our group partnered with other clubs during Enviro-week to promote green initiatives and create awareness.



Amanda Slamka
Third Year
Health Sciences

This year my volunteering theme was education, both locally and internationally. On one hand, I tutored high school students in the Niagara community. On the other, I helped build the Out of Uniform for Uniforms campaign, which helped provide children of Namibia with uniforms so that they could attend school. I give back to schools because they have provided me with the knowledge that got me to where I am today.

Looking forward

Meet our Incoming Executive

First row, from left to right:

President - Laura Broley

Vice-president - Kristina Wamboldt

Secretary - Zoe Walters

Second row, from left to right:

Communications officer - Eleni Nicolaides

Public relations - Zan Dominick

Member liaison - Jennifer Philpott

Third row, from left to right:

Member at large - Tyler Plyley

Treasurer - Julia Wood

Staff administrator - W. Aaron House



The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society

The Leaders' Link: Year in Review

Reaching out to communities

It was another successful year for the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society (BLCS), which contributed to numerous organizations and events through fundraising efforts and volunteer work in the 2011-12 school seasons. Our members showed their passion for their communities and leadership capabilities this past year as they actively sought opportunities to get involved, whether through external clubs and associations or our internally organized initiatives. The BLCS is excited to welcome 13 new members to its growing team in the fall. With three incredible years behind us, Year 4 promises to be filled with even more involvement, innovation and inspiration.



The BLCS at the Shinerama event in September 2011.

Who we are

The BLCS is a group of exceptional students recognized for a combination of high academic achievement, active community involvement and outstanding leadership abilities. At Brock, BLCS members grow, organize, motivate and create opportunities for themselves, the University and surrounding communities.

BLCS reflection

By Tess Lofthouse



After three amazing years with the BLCS, it is my pleasure to pass the role of president to Laura Broley, and to entrust the future of this society to its current members. Over the past three years, the group has grown from five to almost 50 exceptional leaders, each bringing different passions and past experiences to the group. We have generated annual fundraisers for causes we care about and there are many more initiatives to come that will impact the local and global communities. I am so proud to be a part of this group.

As the society grows, adjustments will be necessary to ensure that the BLCS philosophy remains the same: we harness the power of leaders from high schools and engage them in their leadership roles within the University and local community. This past year has been a successful transition year, and I am confident that the group is prepared to welcome the next cohort of BLCS members. I am looking forward to the future accomplishments of this extraordinary group.



The original five exceptional leaders, from left: Adam Boettger, Rohan Kothari, Tess Lofthouse, Kaitlin Bynkoski, Assuntina Del Gobbo

Year Three Highlights

Over \$15,000 raised in three years for Alzheimer Society

It was still dark on the morning of March 31, when the BLCS headed to the Niagara Ball Hockey Club where they would host their Third annual Flora Broley Memorial Ball Hockey Tournament. The BLCS annual event raises money and awareness for the Alzheimer Society Niagara Foundation, an organization that assists families affected by Alzheimer's disease. Volunteers had spent a total of five months preparing for the tournament; on March 31 and April 1 they saw all of their hard work pay off.

A total of 26 teams competed, exceeding last year's registration count by six. With music pumping, numerous prizes waiting to be awarded, skills competitions challenging even the best players, and Boomer the Badger cheering along the sidelines, teams showed off their skills in hopes to win it all. The weekend was full of excitement: scores were kept, hands were respectfully shaken at the end of each game and the painted cheeks of spectators added to the whirl of color and emotion. A member of the Alzheimer Society attended the event to give a personal testimony of the society's work and remind everyone of the cause. After many strenuous battles, the Goon Squad and Niagara North Stars clinched the title of tournament champions for 2012.

New year, new cause



The oncology fundraiser volunteers.
Top row, left to right: Assuntina Del Gobbo, Mike Dier, Alicia Mancuso, Alicia DeVries, Stephanie Farmer, Brittany Vandyken, Tyler Plyley
Bottom row, left to right: Jenn Nurse, Elizabeth Angotti

This year, the BLCS raised a total of \$7,361, over \$2,000 more than last year's amount. This makes the running total of donations to the Alzheimer Society more than \$15,000. The success of the event would not have been possible without the support of volunteers, participants, and sponsors alike. The BLCS would like to extend their sincere thanks to everyone involved. Your help was unforgettable.



The volunteers and Niagara North Stars celebrating the end of a successful tournament.

Serving up the most important meal of the day for oncology

Early on the morning of March 28, the BLCS started their day off right with an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet in support of the Walker Family Cancer Centre. Together at Isaac's Bar and Grill, they gathered with fellow Brock students, staff, family and friends. With the help of the Brock University Student Union, which donated the food costs, the event attracted more than 100 participants.

The NHS Medical Director of Oncology, Dr. Janice Giesbrecht, was grateful for the BLCS' support: "I'm proud of these young students and their community spirit and passion."

The Walker Family Cancer Centre, set to open in 2013, will be a state-of-the-art oncology facility where Niagara's cancer patients will

have access to complete care, including radiation therapy, close to home for the first time. The event was a success thanks to all the volunteers, BUSU catering staff, and people who came out to support this great cause. The BLCS exceeded its goal and raised an incredible \$1,040, all before lunch.

"As a former patient, I am certain that the BLCS' hard work will go a long way in improving the care of cancer patients in the Niagara region."

-Assuntina Del Gobbo



Checking out the plans for the cancer centre.
Left to right: Assuntina Del Gobbo, Dr. Janice Giesbrecht, Stephanie Farmer and Elizabeth Angotti

The BLCS on a global scale

This year it became clear that the BLCS passion for getting involved extends well beyond our local communities. In the fall, BLCS member Mauryah Burattini informed her fellow leaders of her plan to travel to Namibia, Africa in the summer on a mission trip and proposed an initiative to raise funds for the people in the area.

The BLCS hosted three events in response to Mauryah's initial vision. First, they sold festive wear and provided face painting for donations to students during St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Second, they implemented their Out of Uniform for Uniforms campaign, during which local high school students paid two dollars to "dress down" and, by extension, help pay for uniforms for Namibian students. Lastly, the group gave a presentation to raise global awareness about the issues being faced by students in Africa.

In the end, Mauryah packed a total of \$2,092.37 in her suitcase to present to the Namibian community. In addition to being used for uniforms, the funds also assisted in purchasing necessities such as clean drinking water and school supplies. As the BLCS' first appearance on a global scale, the Namibian initiative was a huge success.

"Thanks to our donations, every child who needed a uniform received one. It was so fulfilling to see because I know they all have such great potential and are so driven to learn."

-Mauryah Burrattini



Top: Mauryah with a student at The Bernard Nordkamp Center in Namibia.



Left: BLCS members, left to right: Colin Glavac, Rachel Brodie, Mauryah Burrattini and Amanda Slamka at their St. Patrick's Day fundraiser.