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# The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society

## The Leader's Link: Year in Review



### Brock Leaders Citizenship Society

The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society (BLCS) is a group of exceptional students, recognized for a combination of high academic achievement and personal leadership abilities prior to attending Brock University. As Brock students, members of the BLCS maintain a high standard of academic excellence while producing ongoing opportunities for meaningful engagement with the Brock, local, and global communities. The BLCS is proud to announce its new vision, mission and motto:

**Vision:** We envision a group of passionate Brock University students channeling their strengths to inspire themselves and others to invoke positive change within the Brock, local, and global communities.

**Mission:** The mission of the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society is to unite exceptional students, and nurture their growth into the leaders of tomorrow by fostering their desire to learn, strengthening their character, and encouraging fellowship. An emphasis on academic excellence, leadership development, and philanthropic community service will help us achieve this objective.

**Motto:** Lead the Change!

### Volunteer work improves conditions in Fijian town

For BLCS members Olivia Hubert and Adam Zoccoli, Winter Break 2012 was spent in the Fijian town of Savusavu. Unlike most students travelling south for the winter, Olivia and Adam were not vacationing, but volunteering.

Having collected 50 lbs. of medical supplies and over 300 pairs of glasses for the community, the two first year students donated towards, and volunteered for a local medical clinic.

They assisted doctors with daily procedures and first aid treatments, provided education on hygiene, and on Christmas day, gave presents to over 70 children in need.

Adam and Olivia would like to thank Not Just Tourists, Wal-Mart Optical, Henderson's Pharmasave and Ted and Arlene Bittle for their generous donations.



Olivia Hubert with Fijian children



BLCS members were all smiles during the Senior Citizens Valentine's Day Prom

## Senior citizens prom: "I'll never forget this day"

One hundred helium balloons, four dozen roses, twenty-five carnations, and hundreds of decorations adorned the halls of the West Park Health Center, St. Catharines, during the BLCS's second Senior Citizens Valentine's Day Prom.

Residents of the center enjoyed live music and entertainment at dinnertime, followed by dancing and dessert with members of the BLCS. A professional photographer took "prom photos" of each resident at the Valentine's Day photo booth as a keepsake.

Bridging the gap between generations through music, food, and dancing, the Valentine's Day Prom was a huge success. One guest gushed: "I will never forget this day for the rest of my life!"

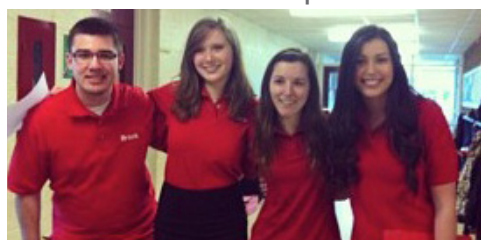
Special thanks to Amanda Slamka, Mauryah Burrattini, Emma Dunn, Jera Bortolussi, and Jenn Nurse who organized the event, and to all members who donated their time to this special event.

## DSBN Academy initiative: Students helping students

The DSBN Academy Initiative, a program created by the BLCS, was designed to foster leadership within students' own communities.

For several weeks the BLCS team facilitated meetings at the DSBN Academy with a group of 30 students (out of the 200 that applied). For their leadership initiative, the students in the program decided to work towards raising funds for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). The group hosted a bake sale and talent show, all under the guidance of their BLCS peers.

Brock Leader Alexandra Yakovleva, who spearheaded the initiative, said that "everything went very smoothly. We were very impressed with the kids. They baked a lot of goodies and ended up raising \$60 that they donated to the SPCA. The kids also had a nice variety of numbers for the talent show. The team did a wonderful job with all the planning and helping out back stage. It was a very fun experience!"



BLCS members at the DSBN Academy



## Spotlight: CIBC Leader Shanice Stewart

The CIBC Leaders Award was made possible through an endowed gift to the university by CIBC. The award recognizes incoming Brock students who have achieved exceptional academic success and demonstrated outstanding community involvement; recipients are also inducted into the BLCS.

Shanice Stewart from Pickering, Ontario is the first recipient of the award. Shanice was a student trustee in high school, representing 25 000 students at the school board level. She was also a coordinator for the Harmony Diversity Leadership Program, captain of the hip-hop dance team, Peer Me-



diator, cheer leading squad member, Student Ambassador, Black History Month coordinator, a youth host for new immigrant students to Canada, and a Super Council member.

Within her community more broadly, Shanice volunteered at a childcare center, and the Durham Regional Police Special Olympics. She also participated in regular Durham Shoreline Cleanups and annual breast cancer fundraisers. After a workplace injury in senior year, Shanice began visiting with co-op students in local high schools to promote workplace safety and advocacy.

In the year following graduation she was diagnosed with Grave's Disease (hyperthyroidism). Unable to attend university, she spent her year as a youth outreach coordinator for Bethesda House Women's Shelter of Durham Region. Shanice is currently pursuing a BSc in Health Sciences and participating in Brock's Med Plus program.

"Being a leader has taught me to be optimistic in the face of obstacles and empathetic to those in need. I love having fun, and meeting new people along the way and I look forward to becoming an active member of the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society."

Right: BLCS Members Laura Broley and Jennifer Philpott with Shelley Schaubel from the Alzheimer Society of Niagara

**WALK  
FOR  
MEMORIES**  
Alzheimer Society



## \$69K raised: Alzheimer Society's Walk for Memories at Brock

Since its inception in 2009, the BLCS has fostered a relationship with the Alzheimer Society of Niagara by creating and implementing "Play for Memories," an annual charity ball hockey tournament that raises thousands of dollars each year for the organization.

Earlier this year, BLCS President Laura Broley and Vice-President Kristina Wamboldt partnered with Brock's Student Life and Community Experience department to help organize another annual event hosted by the Alzheimer Society, called "Walk for Memories."

The event began at the top of the Walker Complex ramp on Brock's main campus, and ran in a figure-eight formation through the surrounding hallways. Nine information tables met participants along the way, with free giveaways designed to increase awareness about the disease. At the end of the walk, participants and volunteers gathered in the Ian D. Beddis Gymnasium to hear the fundraising results, while enjoying musical entertainment. The Alzheimer Society exceeded their goal, raising more than \$69 000. The Alzheimer Society remains excited about the possibility of continued partnership with the University in years to come.





Twenty-four teams participated in the BLCS's Fourth Annual Play for Memories ball hockey tournament

## Ball hockey tournaments raise over \$22K in 4 years

Play for Memories (the fourth annual Flora Broley Memorial Ball Hockey Tournament) was yet another huge success this year. Beginning in 2009 and fronted by BLCS President Laura Broley and Vice President Kristina Wamboldt, the tournament has raised over \$22 000 for the Alzheimer Society of Niagara to date.



After its pilot year, the tournament was designated as the annual first year project for incoming members of the BLCS (after first year, members choose their own projects). At this year's tournament, the first year members raised over \$7 312 for the Alzheimer Society of Niagara.

Twenty-four ball hockey teams from Brock and the surrounding community participated in the event. Additional activities including the Hardest Shot Challenge, Accuracy Challenge, and Shoot to Win Contest sponsored by Toyota, were also popular amongst participants. The BLCS would like to thank ballhockey.com, who donate their facilities, staff, and a portion of their food and beverage sales each year.

Right: BLCS member Stephanie Farmer at the Walker Family Cancer Fundraiser

## Breakfast buffet benefits Walker Family Cancer Centre

Earlier this year, at Isaac's Entertainment Complex, the BLCS organized their second annual All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast Buffet in support of the Walker Family Cancer Centre. The team raised \$1300 for the centre, which opened at the new St. Catharines Hospital in March 2013.

At 67,000 square feet, the centre provides radiation services to patients who previously had to travel to Hamilton or Toronto to receive treatment. It also provides better patient-centred care, including improved chemotherapy infusion bays and chairs, and a healing garden. The team worked around the clock to gain support from local businesses, selling over 164 tickets and exceeding last year's sales.







BLCS members celebrating the groups' accomplishments at the Year End Formal

## Year End Formal

This year the BLCS hosted their first year end formal. On April 8 2013, members mingled with university faculty and community partners at the Stone Mill Inn Grand Ballroom in St. Catharines, followed by dinner catered by Johnny Rocco's, and a ceremony for graduating students.

Over the course of the evening various awards were presented including the Award of Merit, Society Advancement Award, Spirit of the BLCS Award, and the Lasting Impression Award. Kim Meade, Vice Provost and Associate Vice President of Student Services, was awarded the first honorary Brock Leaders Citizenship Society membership in recognition of her continued commitment to the society.

## Meet our 2013-2014 Executive

**President:** Eleni Nicolaides  
**Vice President:** Alyssa Berardocco  
**Communications Officer:** Meaghan Walker  
**Secretary:** Michael Dube  
**Public Relations Officer:** David Nguyen  
**Member Liaison:** Shanice Stewart  
**Member at Large:** Adam Zoccoli

Right: BLCS Executive at the Year End Formal with Manager, Aaron House



Organizers of the benefit concert for the 5 Days Campaign

## Concert funds support homeless, at-risk youth

In 2008, the University of Alberta, School of Business started the "5 Days Campaign" - a five day period when students sleep outdoors to both increase awareness of homelessness, and raise donations for organizations supporting homeless and at-risk youth.

The event has grown exponentially over the past several years, stretching nationwide and raising almost \$1 000 000 for communities across Canada.

This past spring, members of the BLCS, in conjunction with Brock Rotaract, hosted a benefit concert for the cause. Monetary donations and canned goods were accepted as admission to the concert in support of Community Care of St. Catharines/Thorold.

The concert raised \$300 in funds; the entire week raised over \$4 712 in monetary donations and \$1 750 in canned goods. Thank you to organizers Tyler Plyley, Amanda Hendriks, Eleni Nicolaides, Zoe Walters, and Jennifer Philpott.





BLCS members with President, Jack Lightstone, Vice President Student Services, Kim Meade and Manager, Aaron House

## BLCS members honoured at appreciation luncheon

Kim Meade, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice President of Student Services, hosted the BLCS Appreciation Luncheon.

Members of the BLCS joined Brock President Jack Lightstone and Vice President Academic, Murray Knuttila for the lunch, which was held at Alphie's Bistro.

## Words from our members



### Michael Dube: 2nd year BSc

My favourite poem "Live a Life That Matters" by an Unknown Author exemplifies the soundtrack to the life I try to live. An excerpt from the poem goes as follows: "So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured...What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage and sacrifice. That enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example." For me I have always strived toward helping others. The BLCS is only an extension of this fundamental need that I have to help others. Over the next year I look forward to living a life that matters through my executive position on the BLCS and my role as a Don of Activities in Residence; but more importantly through how I act and carry myself each and every day.



### Rachel Chrissley: 3rd year BA/BEd

This year through BLCS, I developed a deeper understanding of the importance and rewards of inspiring leadership and citizenship in others. Through involvement in creating a new leadership development program through the DSBN Academy I was able to see how much influence and determination young students have when given the opportunity to grow as leaders. The repercussions of building up passionate and confident young leaders who want to make a change in their community will far outweigh anything one leader could try to accomplish alone.





## **Tyler Plyley: BSc, 1st year Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine**

The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society has been, without a doubt, my favourite aspect of Brock University. In the last few years, BLCS has provided me with the resources and opportunities with which to succeed. In addition to the leadership training and ever helpful advice from Aaron House and other administration, there has also been ample opportunity within BLCS to build connections with faculty and other members. This has made it extremely easy for me to get involved in a wide variety of events and clubs around campus. In fact, it is difficult for me to try and think of a single Brock club or community event with which a BLCS member, or the BLCS at large, has not been involved. In addition to the opportunities provided, there is also an ever present sense of community within our society. Our town hall meetings are always highly animated, which is impressive considering everyone's long and often daunting schedules. If I ever have a difficult decision to make, senior BLCS members are continually among the first people I approach for advice. My experience with executive (after serving as Member at Large for two successive terms) has also been extremely positive, and I feel that it has prepared me well for future leadership endeavors. In closing, the BLCS has been an integral part of life at Brock for me, and an experience that I will not quickly forget..



## **Jennifer Philpott: 3rd year BBA**

My involvement in the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society has been a highlight of my university career. In the BLCS, I have made fond friends, developed my network, and have given back to the community on various levels. This year has been particularly exciting for me, as I had a role on the Executive Council and co-organized a benefit concert with two other university organizations. It is my hope that the Society will continue to establish relationships with other clubs and will expand our presence at Brock as we continue to grow.

I consider it a privilege to collaborate alongside so many talented individuals who share my passion for philanthropy, and I am humbled by the recognition we receive from both the local community and those abroad. I am confident that the skills I have gained as a Brock Leader will prove invaluable in each of my future endeavours. I look forward to the future of the BLCS as we continue to make great strides and Lead the Change.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

### **Upcoming events**

#### **Meet and Greet**

September 3rd, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

#### **Homecoming**

September 21st, 11 a.m.