

The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society

Fall 2014

The Leader's Link



Who we are

The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society (BLCS) is a group of exceptional students recognized for their 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 campus, local, and global communities.

Vision

Passionate Brock University students channel their strengths to inspire themselves and others to invoke positive change within the Brock, local and global communities.

Mission

The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society unites exceptional students, and nurtures their growth into the leaders of tomorrow. We foster their desire to learn, strengthen their character, and encourage fellowship. An emphasis on academic excellence, leadership development, and philanthropic community service helps us to achieve this objective.

Motto

Lead the change!

A Message from the BLCS President



The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society (BLCS) represents much more than a group of highly academic community leaders. The BLCS is a vehicle in pursuit of potential and growth as scholars, trailblazers, and future members of society. Moreover, the BLCS is the spark to innovation and discovery for motivated young adults to explore every facet of Brock University and the Niagara region. Further, this society is the catalyst of continuous innovation, expanding capabilities, and opportunities. Lastly, the BLCS is an integral part of each member's life, because it is here that we have learned, persevered, and were driven to maximize our potential and achieve our goals.

The beginning of a new academic year is always bittersweet. By summer's end, students have packed, said their goodbyes and made their way back to the Brock campus. At the same time, it is an exciting reunion for our past BLCS members and alumni, as well as the welcoming of our incoming members. It is at this time that I quickly remember that a new academic year is not simply about being a good student and obtaining stellar averages. A new year with the BLCS brings the vibrant sight of joy, optimism, inclusiveness, and fellowship that reminds me how privileged we are to have this strong sense of community and family.

I often make mention of this idea of the "BLCS family." For the incoming members, the BLCS is here to foster your personal growth and to celebrate your current and upcoming successes. We are here to ease the transition during these pivotal moments of change. For all members, the BLCS is here to remind you how powerful and influential you are in shaping the world around you. Marianne Williamson once said, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us." So, for this year, do not be afraid to achieve greatness, because BLCS is here to encourage you if you stumble along your way. As servant leaders, service is what marks and defines us as people who are passionate enough to invoke change.

Let's get excited for a new year and continue to do what we always do: Lead the Change.

David Nguyen
Year 3, Biomedical Sciences

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Meet the 2014-15 BLCS executive



President:
David Nguyen
(Year 3, Biomedical
Sciences)



Vice President:
Aniqah Zowmi
(Year 2, Neuroscience)



Secretary:
Megan Brown
(Year 2, Biomedical
Sciences)



**Communications
Officer:**
Rachel Easterbrook
(Year 2, Child Health)



**Public Relations
Officer:**
Daniel Mariella
(Year 2, Interactive
Arts and Science)



Events Co-ordinator:
Eve Ameen (Year 2,
Biomedical Sciences)



Member Liaison:
John Mikhael
(Year 2, Medical
Sciences)



**First-Year Initiative
Lead:** Miranda Wayland
(Year 2, Speech and
Language Sciences)

BLCS alumni — where are they now?

Kaitlin Bynkoski (BSc '10, Biomedical Sciences)



Successful pharmacist Kaitlin Bynkoski was BLCS's first president when it formed in 2008 with four other Brock students.

After graduating from Brock, Kaitlin graduated from the pharmacy program at University of Waterloo in 2013, where she held the position of president of the Society of Pharmacy Students. She was also presented with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association 2013 Student of Distinction Award in recognition of her demonstrated

leadership and commitment to advancing the profession of pharmacy throughout her academic career. Shortly after graduation, she was featured in Pharmacy Business magazine <http://magazine.pharmacy-business.ca/i/202245/7>

Kaitlin works in Sudbury as part of the Shoppers Drug Mart Leadership Excellence and Development program, which trains people interested in becoming associate owners of Shoppers Drug Mart stores. She is passionate about patient care and improving its access and delivery to the residents of Northern Ontario communities.

Further advancing her career, in April this year she joined University of Waterloo's School of Pharmacy as the Regional Clinical Co-ordinator for Sudbury and as an adjunct clinical assistant professor.

Her volunteer life also focuses on pharmacy. She offers her time with the Ontario College of Pharmacists as the Continuing Education Co-ordinator for Sudbury, where she is developing evidence-based professional development resources for pharmacists in her community.

Shining at 2014 Spring Convocation

Each year during the convocation ceremony Brock University honours exceptional students with awards that recognize both academic and extracurricular excellence. These awards include the Distinguished Graduating Student Award, awarded to the most distinguished graduate from each department, and the Dean's Medal, awarded to the student with the highest cumulative overall average in a pass degree and an honours degree in each faculty. In addition, the Board of Trustees Spirit of Brock Medal is presented to graduating students who best exemplify Sir Issac Brock's spirit in the areas of leadership, courage, innovation, inspiration and community involvement.

At the Spring 2014 Convocation ceremony many of the graduating BLCS members were recognized with these awards of excellence.

Huzaifa Faizan (BAcc '14) received the Distinguished Graduating Student Award for Faculty of Business BAcc and

Tessa Lofthouse (BA, BEd '14) received the Distinguished Graduating Student Award for French.

Tyler Plyley (BSc '13) received the Dean's Medal for the Faculty of Mathematics and Science with a pass degree.

In addition, **Kristina Wamboldt (BSc, BEd '14)** received the Distinguished Graduating Student Award for Concurrent Education Intermediate Senior, the Distinguished Graduating Student Award for Mathematics, the Dean' Medal for the Faculty of Mathematics and Science with an honours degree and the Board of Trustees Spirit of Brock Medal.

Congratulations to all of our BLCS graduates and best of luck as you pursue your dreams.



Play for Memories raises \$7,453

Play for Memories, a charity ball hockey tournament organized by first-year BLCS members, raised \$7453.85 for the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region. To date, more than \$30,000 has been raised over the past five years. This year, 24 teams from across southern Ontario gathered on April 5 and 6 to participate in the tournament. The Niagara Chiefs won in the A Pool, and Twine N' Dine won in the B pool.

The event was held at Ballhockey.com Athletic Centre in St. Catharines, which donated the space and a portion of its proceeds from the weekend at the Bar Upstairs (on-site restaurant and bar).

Achievements recognized at year-end formal



The year-end formal was held April 7 at the Stone Mill Ballroom in St. Catharines. During the event, BLCS graduating members and their accomplishments were recognized.

In addition, many members were recognized with special awards for their hard work and dedication throughout the academic year. These awards include:

Award of Merit

Awarded to the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society member who has contributed the most volunteer hours this year.

Recipient: Alyssa Beradocco

Spirit of the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society Award

Awarded to the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society member who has shown a particular commitment to BLCS.

Recipient: Miranda Wayland

Lasting Impression Award

Awarded to a Brock Leaders Citizenship Society member who made a lasting impact on BLCS.

Recipient: Tyler Plyley

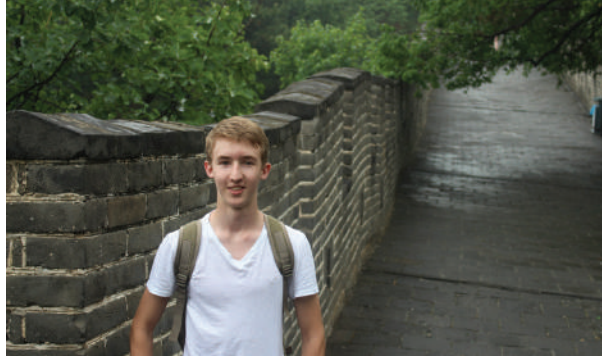
Society Advancement Award

Awarded to a new and successful Brock Leaders Citizenship Society initiative that has furthered the reach and impact of the society.

Recipient: Teens for Jeans (committee members Elizabeth Angotti, Charissa DiMarco, Aniqah Zowmi, and Michael Dube)

A Brock Leaders Citizenship Society honorary membership was presented to Dr. Taia Spencer-Yap, a former recipient of the Brock National Leaders Award, a Brock University graduate, and local business owner and chiropractor.

In attendance were Brock President Jack Lightstone and his wife Dorothy Markiewicz, as well as representatives from the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region, Brock University Recruitment, Brock University Student Life and Community Experience, and Brock University Student Awards and Financial Aid



Making an impact in the world



Leading the change throughout the summer

Dan Mariella (Year 2, Interactive Arts and Science)

Dan Mariella volunteers for the Saltfleet Go Ahead Soccer Club, a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1965 to provide youth boys and girls in Stoney Creek and surrounding communities with the opportunity to play organized soccer.

"We are committed to providing a diverse range of recreational and competitive level soccer programs for children/youth," he says.

Dan has volunteered as a coach for eight years for children ages 4 to 16. His style of coaching promotes teamwork, development of skills, and a healthy combination of exercise and fun.

Lauren Saly (Year 1, Concurrent Education P/J)

For the second summer, Lauren Saly has worked enthusiastically as a counsellor with the City of London Junior Camp with children ages 4 to 6.

She helps to organize games and activities, and accompanies the participants on various trips throughout the summer.

"Basically, we work to give the children who come to our programs the best summer ever."

Elizabeth Angotti (Year 4, Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures)

Elizabeth Angotti was one of the recipients of the 2014 Niagara Falls Good Canadian Citizen Award.

Presented on Canada Day at Niagara Falls City Hall, the award is "given to individuals who have performed outstanding service for the betterment of the community."

Elizabeth was nominated for her volunteer work at the Meadows of Dorchester Long-Term Care Facility in Niagara Falls. She has volunteered there since she was 10 years old, assisting in the hair salon, the Auxiliary Café, at mealtimes and with bringing residents to and from on-site functions.

John Mikhaeil (Year 2, Medical Sciences)

For eight weeks in the summer, John Mikhaeil worked for Autism Ontario where, as a staff member, he led programs and planned activities at a camp for children with autism and ADHD.

The non-profit organization facilitates activities for autistic children to promote an active lifestyle and social interactions.



Dalton Steele (Year 2, Business Administration, Co-op) and Ian Poulin (Year 2 Business Administration, Dual Degree)

Dalton and Ian travelled to Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China in May this year for 26 days. While there, they explored the country, learned about Chinese culture, and helped university students improve their English conversation skills.

The two were part of Spoken English Communications Project, a Brock-organized initiative.

Tessa Lofthouse (BA, BEd '14)

Tessa Lofthouse spent three weeks in Kunshan, China, to teach children ages 5-15 how to speak English.

For the months of June and July, Tessa and other students took English as a Second Language Additional (Teaching) Qualification to prepare for the practicum and to develop lesson plans, strategies, and resources to use in China.

"Asia is a region of the world that I have never travelled to before, so I'm extremely excited to learn about the culture there first-hand," she says. "This will certainly be of practical use when I begin teaching my own classes. I am also hoping to learn a little bit of Mandarin while I am there."



Julia Wood (Year 4 Business Administration, Dual Degree)

Julia is going into her fourth year in the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) Co-op International Dual Degree program with the EBS Business School in Germany, one of Europe's leading business schools. Julia studied for 2.5 years at Brock and in January 2014 she traveled to Germany to complete her final 1.5 years at EBS Business School. This past summer she had the opportunity to work as a Pension Services Intern at Deutsche Post, gaining valuable international business experience.

At the conclusion of her studies Julia will receive two internationally recognized degrees - the BBA from Brock and the BSc in Management from EBS Business School.

Meet the newest BLCS members



Mackenzie Ceci (Sociology)

Mackenzie served as her high school's student council president for two years. She was also captain of her school basketball team and represented 35,000 students in the District School Board of Niagara as a student trustee. Mackenzie is also a member of the Welland Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, a youth member of the Cooks Mills Development Group, food co-ordinator for the Welland food drive and a member of the Education Foundation of Niagara.



Meagan Gloor (Business Administration Co-op)

Meagan held many different positions on her high school's student council throughout her four years, including president during her Grade 12 year. Meagan was also yearbook editor for two years, a peer mentor and participated in school productions as an actor and choreographer. In addition to her school involvements, Meagan volunteers her time as a Sunday school teacher and event assistant at Grace Lutheran Church. She organized Free the Children's "We Scare Hunger" event and the Camp-out for Cancer event.



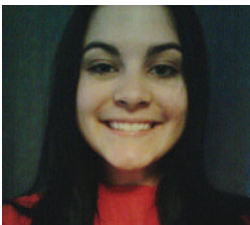
Shabana Jamani (Medical Sciences)

As a high school student, Shabana was a member of her school's student council, an executive leader of the Teens 4 Change Global Initiative club, an executive leader of the Sir Winston Churchill Mosaic (anti-bullying club) and editor of the Sir Winston Churchill Literary Magazine. Shabana also volunteered her time in the emergency department at the St. Catharines hospital as a volunteer trainer. In addition, she was a camp supervisor at Red Roof Retreat and a volunteer coach for the Brock Niagara Aquatics Swim Club.



Nicholas Lepore (Accounting Co-op)

Nicholas was captain of the St. Thomas More Knight Runners and a member of the organizing committees for Mad 4 Maddie fundraiser, Halloween 4 Hunger, and HWCDSB Pilgrimage for Developing Nations. He is involved in his community, co-founding initiatives such as Pennies for Food, which collects donations from local schools and service agencies to purchase food for a local food bank. He also co-founded Basketball 4 All, which brought together service organizations and youth groups for free basketball instruction in a group setting.



Jillien Lortie (Concurrent Education I/S, English)

Jillien was a member of her high school student council for four years, holding the position of president during her Grade 12 year. She was co-head of the Prom Committee, editor of the yearbook and a student senator representing Lasalle Secondary School on the Rainbow District School Board Student Senate. Jillien was also very involved in athletics, participating in softball, volleyball, badminton and flag football, for which she was co-captain of her school's team.



Craig Maltais (Concurrent Education I/S, French)

Craig was a member of the high school student council for four years, including his position as an executive officer. He was co-chair of the Athletic Council, a member of the basketball team and a Grade 9 mentor on the Student Success Team. In his community, Craig was a member of the Welland Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, a student ambassador for the District School Board of Niagara's student senate, and a youth representative on the Age Friendly Community Committee. Craig is committed, enthusiastic, hard working and motivated to help others by becoming involved in the Brock community.



Aynsley Maves (Concurrent Education P/J, Child and Youth Studies)

Aynsley served as prime minister of her high school's student council, helped to organize Relay for Life, was a "Super Leader" at Camp Myer, and a cross - country and track and field athlete. Aynsley also worked as a team member and builder for the District School Board of Niagara's International Home Build in Vietnam. She volunteers her time as a teacher's assistant, is a member of the Niagara Falls Marathon Cheer Team and a float decorator/volunteer for both the Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-lake Santa Claus parades.



Olivia Poulin (Business Administration Co-op)

Olivia has a passion for sports, volunteerism, fundraising and business events. During her high school career, Olivia was captain of her school's volleyball team, scheduling co-ordinator for the Athletic Council, secretary of the Interact Club and a member of the A.N. Myer DECA Business Chapter. In her community, Olivia held the positions of Laurel President and assistant secretary for the Young Women's Organization LDS Church and a council member for the church youth council.



Lauren Saly (Concurrent Education P/J, Child and Youth Studies)

Throughout high school, Lauren has demonstrated leadership abilities in all of her involvements. She served as chapter president for the Best Buddies Club, secretary of Student Parliament, a member of the Me to We Club and as a peer mentor for Grade 9 students. Lauren volunteers as a Sunday school teacher at Forest City Community Church, a youth group member and a childcare volunteer at West London Alliance Church, and a teacher's assistant for North London Dance Centre. She is excited to discover new leadership opportunities as she becomes involved in the Brock community.



Emily Schaefer (Concurrent Education I/S, Mathematics)

Emily is a world-class wrestler, competing with Team Ontario and Team Canada. As a high school student, she took leadership roles in her work with her school's student council and her school board's student senate. She also held the position of Student Trustee for the Lambton Kent District School Board. At her high school she was a peer mentor for Grade 9 students, a participant and referee for the intramural clubs, and a member of the concert band. Emily volunteers as the student representative for four Northern charitable organizations, is a coach for Sarnia Bluewater Wrestling Club, and a team trainer for Sarnia Hockey Association and assistant coach for the Sarnia Boys Soccer Club.



Heather Wild (Neuroscience Co-op)

Heather was the student head for the Health Action Team acting as a liaison between teachers, students and Hamilton Public Health. In addition, Heather was a minister for the Eucharistic Ministry, a member of Prefects and a math and French tutor. Heather also took on the role of vice-president for Unfiltered Facts, running conferences and facilitating mental health and anti-bullying workshops. She also volunteers with the Walk for Christ annual pilgrimage, Halloween for Hunger and with a Dominican Republic education and medical support project.