

# The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society

Fall 2015

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 channeling 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



I am honoured to be the president of the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society this year. Four years ago, when I received my letter of acceptance into the BLCS, I wondered what it would be like to one day be the president. I did not know how, but I was sure that it was a goal that I could achieve. The BLCS has taught me that anything is possible.

With the appropriate support, a small idea can grow into something much larger. Our retreat, which started as an idea, grew into the foundation that would set the precedent for this upcoming academic year. I look forward to seeing our old and new initiatives blossom this year as we continue to serve the Brock community. Mark your calendars; initiative planning is underway. Initiatives you can expect to see this year are Senior's Prom, Breaking Barriers, the annual Ball Hockey Tournament, and a new fundraiser called Denim, Diamonds, and Diplomas, which is raising money for the Education Foundation of Niagara.

I would like to thank the BLCS for entrusting me to serve as your president this year. I would also like to thank our graduates for continuing to lead the change. We wish you all the best and we hope the work you did at Brock serve as a platform toward your future goals. To our incoming students — congratulations. Embrace the BLCS and all that it has to offer you over the next four years. I cannot wait to see what you will do in the future. Above all, on behalf of the BLCS, I would like to thank our donors, sponsors, and supporters for believing in our members and the positive impact we strive to have on Brock and the surrounding community.

Lead the change.

**Shanice Stewart**

## Meet the 2014-15 BLCS executive



**President:**  
Shanice Stewart  
(Year 4, Medical  
Sciences)



**Vice President:**  
Olivia Hubert  
(Year 4, Nursing)



**Secretary:**  
Megan Brown  
(Year 3, Medical  
Sciences)



**Public Relations  
Officer:**  
Daniel Mariella  
(Year 3, Interactive  
Arts and Science)



**Communications  
Officer:**  
Rachel Easterbrook  
(Year 3, Child Health)



**Events Co-ordinator:**  
David Nguyen (Year 4,  
Biomedical Sciences)



**Member Liaison:**  
John Mikhaeil  
(Year 3, Medical  
Sciences)



**First-Year Initiative  
Lead:** Miranda Wayland  
(Year 3, Speech and  
Language Sciences)

## BLCS Meet and Greet



September sees the first BLCS gathering of the new school year. The Meet and Greet is a yearly event where new members get to mingle with the rest of the society, alumni, and the Brock University administration. It was an honour to

have Brock's President, Dr Lightstone, give a motivational speech about the positive effect the BLCS has on the Brock and St. Catharines communities.

## Play for Memories



Each year the success of the Flora Broley Memorial Ball Hockey tournament speaks for itself. The event, which is organized and run entirely by the first-year members of the BLCS, has always been a fantastic fundraising opportunity for the Alzheimer's Society of Niagara. Last year, 18 teams raised more than

\$6000, increasing the six-year fundraising total to over \$33,000. Held at the amazing BallHockey.com facilities in downtown St Catharines, the 2016 Play for Memories tournament hopes to bring in even more teams to play and support the fight against Alzheimer's disease.



# BLCS Year End Formal Awards



In April, the BLCS hosts a formal event where we gather to eat and celebrate another successful year. As always, those who help sponsor the club and members of Brock's executive administration are invited to join in the celebration. The BLCS was particularly happy to have the society's founder, Aaron House, present as a key-note speaker. Held at the Stone Mill Ballroom in St Catharines, members of the BLCS who have been exceptional in their dedication to academia and humanitarian activities in and around Brock are awarded for their efforts. 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: Aynsley Maves

## Lasting Impression Award

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

Recipient: Kristina Wamboldt

## 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: Breaking Barriers (Meaghan Walker, Adam Zoccoli, Veronica Dunlop)

A Brock Leaders Citizenship Society honorary membership was presented to Aaron House, the society's founder. Despite leaving Brock to pursue other endeavours, Aaron has continued to be a positive voice for the BLCS and he is always welcome.



# Brock Cares Day

When the BLCS comes together — work gets done. Brock Cares is a University-wide event that aims to gather volunteers to serve Brock and the St Catharines community. When rain and cold temperatures arrived on the day of the event the BLCS remained committed. Our day of service helped the United Way put together over 2000 donation envelopes.



## Upcoming Events

- Seventh annual Play for Memories Ball Hockey — April 2, 2016
- Fifth annual Seniors' Prom — February 12th at West Park Health Centre
- Denim Diamonds & Diplomas — Feb. 20, 2016 — In partnership with EFN

# Meet the newest BLCS members



## **Akayla Olajos (Oenology and Viticulture)**

Alongside being an emergency room volunteer at Brockville General Hospital, Akayla has traveled to Guatemala on a mission trip to help the needy. In high school, she was a member of the "Justice League" social justice club and the Restorative Justice Team. Akayla hopes to pursue research in a science field.



## **Allison Ives (Business Administration Co-Op, Dual Degree)**

Allison has served her high school as the director of the Television Crew and is very passionate about the dramatic arts and dance. She also competed with her school's "Reach for the Top" team and soccer team. Allison looks forward to pursuing a career in business administration.



## **Anushka Lalwani (Neuroscience)**

A very involved student, Anushka was on her high school's student council, spirit council, and multicultural club. She was a talented member of her school's swim team and even made the time to work as a swim instructor. Anushka has plans to be a surgeon or genetics researcher after obtaining her degree from Brock.



## **Carter Hoffman (Business Administration Co-Op, Dual Degree)**

A lover of all things sports, Carter was a member of his high school's varsity and club teams for baseball, hockey, and track and field. He also participated in a mission trip to Jamaica. Carter is interested in pursuing financial management.



## **Elizabeth Colantoni (Concurrent Education I/S English)**

Elizabeth is a connoisseur of music and the dramatic arts. She participated in her high school's choir, as well as various musicals and school plays. To decrease the stigma of mental illnesses and improve overall mental health at her school, she founded "Safe Talk." Elizabeth feels called to be an educator.



# Meet the newest BLCS members continued



## **Jonah Graham (Tourism and Environment Co-Op)**

The former treasurer of his high school's student council, Jonah is a hard working student who served his community as a student mentor Multiple Sclerosis Society volunteer. With his extra time, Jonah participated on his school's badminton and baseball teams. Jonah hopes to work in the tourism industry in the field of hotel management.



## **Mary Lapp (Speech and Language Sciences)**

A skilled athlete, Mary competed in numerous track and field and cross country competitions. It is no surprise that she is the female athlete representative on the executive board for the Niagara Regional Athletics Track Organization. Mary hopes to be a speech and language pathologist.



## **Melissa Yeo (Medical Sciences)**

Melissa volunteered her time as a member of her high school's student council and prom committee. She has also participated in cheerleading, cross country, and even worked to raise funds for non-profit charities as a Canadian step-dancer. Melissa hopes to be a specialist physician.



## **Shraddha Khirwadkar (Biochemistry Co-Op)**

After moving to Canada from the province of Gujarat in India, Shraddha volunteered her time as her high school's student council secretary, a TLC team leader at St. Catharines General Hospital, a yearbook and art club member, and a peer tutor. She would love to work as a psychiatrist.



## **Tayler Villamere (Concurrent Education I/J)**

Tayler has involved herself with her high school's student council and athletic council. She also served as the Halton Catholic District School Board's Student Senator. An avid dancer, Tayler has a passion for volunteering with children and it is no surprise that she hopes to become an elementary school teacher.

**Thaniya Jeyachandra (Business Administration Co-Op, Dual Degree)**

Having spent her time in high school as the student council's vice president and school senator, Thaniya has also been the vice president of DECA and a member of the tennis team. She has even volunteered her time as the chair of Extend-a-Family. Thaniya hopes to eventually work as a corporate lawyer.

**Thomas Hewitt (Accounting)**

Thomas joins the BLCS after serving on his high school's presidents' council, student council, and varsity swim team. He has also served as the president of the Junior Achievement Club where he led other students to design and sell products for charity. With that experience and his accounting degree from Brock, Thomas hopes to be an accountant.

**Victoria Parlature (Child and Youth Studies)**

A student council Prime Minister and member of her high school's cheerleading team, Victoria is certainly an outgoing student. She enjoys her role as a volunteer peer leader with Niagara Region Public Health and has plans to work with children experiencing mental illnesses to better their lives and the community.



## Contact Information:

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