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The Brock Leaders Citizenship Society

Winter 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 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



It brings me great joy to see another successful year of the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society.

Exceptional student leaders in BLCS have empowered and motivated their peers in their efforts to further develop the Brock community and greater Niagara. A few examples include our annual Ball Hockey Tournament, our involvement in leadership summits, and our compassion at events such as Seniors Prom and Trick-or-Eat. I have seen BLCS strengthen as we build upon leadership and activism, using all of our skills, capacities, and perspectives to create positive change.

It is important to reflect and appreciate the people who have touched our lives and helped us get to where we are today. I'd like to thank our donors, sponsors and supporters who provide us with the opportunity to develop and share our leadership skills. On behalf of BLCS, I thank this year's graduates and wish them the best of luck. We know that you will continue to be successful in whatever you pursue and will be exceptional leaders in your future communities. Lastly, I'd like to thank BLCS members for giving me the opportunity to lead as president this academic year.

In closing, I'd like to leave you with a quote by Marianne Williamson that inspired my desire to lead: "Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."

Lead the change.

David Nguyen
Year 3, Biomedical Sciences

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 Mikhaeil
(Year 2, Medical
Sciences)



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

BLCS Homecoming



Sept. 20, 2014: We participated in Brock University's 50th Anniversary celebration. We welcomed BLCS alumni, alumni of the Brock National Leaders program, and current BLCS members for an afternoon of Brock spirit as we kicked off a year of leading the change in 2014-15. The event was held at Alphonse's Trough and attracted Brock National Leaders alumni, Christina LeRose and Jill Finbow, as well as

BLCS alumni Adam Boettger, Tessa Lofthouse, Tyler Plyley and Kristina Wamboldt. Adam Boettger, a member of the inaugural BLCS group, gave an inspiring talk to the group and providing insights from his own experiences after graduating from Brock University. Thank you to Eve Ameen, Event Co-ordinator, for her hard work in planning the event.

Women's Leadership Summit



Oct. 18, 2014: Alyssa Berardocco created and presented "Never Too Young to Lead" at the Niagara Leadership Summit for Women hosted by the YWCA of Niagara Region. She was the youngest presenter at the Summit, speaking to men and women from Niagara, discussing the leadership lessons that can be learned from children and young adults and the importance of maintaining a positive attitude to empower and influence others. The summit fosters the development of women leaders in the community and promotes an inclusive environment that supports positive discourse for women's issues in Niagara.

Shinerama



Sept. 6, 2014: More than 40 dedicated BLCS members volunteered at Shinerama, Canada's largest post-secondary fundraiser for cystic fibrosis. This year, our site was Mountain Lock's Plaza in St. Catharines, where we

enjoyed a fun day of washing cars and barbecuing to hopefully make 'CF' stand for 'Cure Found'! Shinerama, as always, was a great opportunity to create friendships while raising money for a good cause.

Student Leadership Summit



Nov. 8, 2014: BLCS partnered with Student Life and Community Experience, Brock's Department of Residences, and BUSU to organize the Student Leadership Summit. The aim of the summit is to provide students and student leaders with an opportunity to further develop their leadership skills by networking with other student leaders. BLCS members Alyssa Berardocco, Michael Dube, Heather Wild and Aniqah Zowmi presented at the summit. The theme of the summit this year (which coincided with Brock's 50th anniversary) was Surgite! — Overcoming Challenges.



BrockU Talks

Nov. 19, 2014: Brock University had its second BrockU Talks event. BrockU Talks is a student-led conference for individuals to speak about their passions while aiming to motivate and inspire change in the Brock and Niagara communities. This event was inspired by Aniqah Zowmi, a second-year BLCS member. Ten speakers presented to more than 60 people, as well as to students watching on Youtube and livestream. Political philosophy, suicide, religion, and school stress were among the topics. For future events, like us on Facebook at facebook.cmo/brockutalks or follow us on twitter @BrockUTalks.



Breaking Barriers

Friday, November 20, 2014: Third-year BLCS members Meaghan Walker and Adam Zoccoli developed an interactive empathy-building workshop called "Breaking Barriers" to elementary students from Crossroads Public School in Virgil. The workshop develops empathy towards individuals with disabilities, with the goal of reducing bullying and exclusion, and promoting friendship and inclusion. BLCS facilitators, alongside Brock

University volunteers and staff from Niagara Children's Centre, guided elementary students through a variety of activities that gave students a glimpse of several disabilities. Meaghan Walker and Adam Zoccoli hope to continue this project to advocate for individuals with disabilities in the Niagara Region.



BLCS Appreciation Lunch

Jan. 6, 2015: Members of the BLCS joined Brock President and Vice-Chancellor Jack Lightstone, and Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President of Student Services Kim Meade, for our annual BLCS Appreciation Lunch at Alphie's Bistro. The Brock community celebrated

the Brock Leaders for their ongoing dedication, achievements, and contributions. The lunch was made possible by a generous donation from CIBC, a proud supporter of the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society.



Trick or Eat

Oct. 31, 2014: BLCS participated in Student Life and Community Experience's annual Trick or Eat in St. Catharines and Thorold communities to collect canned goods for Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold and Brock University's food bank run by the Student Justice Centre. In the pouring rain, seven BLCS members as well as other Brock student volunteers went door-to-door collecting canned goods to reach the goal of 2,000 pounds of food donations.

"Sometimes we take for granted of the roofs over our heads and the opportunity to pursue education at Brock University," says David Nguyen, BLCS president. "An event like Trick or Eat provides more than just canned goods; it develops a powerful sense of community that opens students' hearts and empowers them to give back to the community that supports them."



Senior Citizens Prom

Friday, February 13 2015: Brock Leaders hosted a Seniors Prom night at West Park Health Centre, for seniors to enjoy Valentine's Day. Residents were able to dine, dance, and enjoy music and conversation with Brock Leaders. "Senior's Prom gives us the opportunity to bridge

the gap between generations and really make a difference in many of the seniors' lives," says John Mikhaeil, member liaison. Special thanks to Olivia Hubert for doing an excellent job organizing an event that brings a smile to so many faces.



Walk for Memories

Jan. 25, 2015: The Alzheimer Society Walk for Memories is an annual event that raises money and awareness for Alzheimer's education and care. This year, Brock hosted the event. BLCS sat on the planning committee and recruited volunteers, handled day-of preparations and cheered on walkers.



6th Annual Flora Broley Memorial Ball Hockey Tournament (Play for Memories):

March 28, 2015: First-year BLCS members will take one step closer to help find a cure for Alzheimer's by hosting the 6th annual Flora Broley Play for Memories Memorial Ball Hockey Tournament. The 3-on-3 tournaments takes place at Ballhockey.com Athletic Centre in St. Catharines. In the past five years, the charity tournament has raised

more than \$30,000 for the Alzheimer's Society of Niagara Region, with an amazing turnout of 25 teams each year. This year we hope to have at least 30 teams participate and to raise \$7,000. We are looking forward to another successful year and to continue to support this amazing cause that affects all of us in some way.

Year-end Formal

April 7, 2015: Since 2013, BLCS has hosted an annual year-end formal dinner and ceremony that honours the year's accomplishments of current members. This year hopes to be bigger than ever, with University faculty and staff attending, at the Grand Ballroom in Johnny Rocco's restaurant in St. Catharines.



Member spotlight

Emily Schaefer is a first-year student in Concurrent Education (I/S for math and physics) and a first-year member of Brock Leaders. She sat on the advertising committee of the Play for Memories Ball Hockey Tournament, and helped to promote and organize the successful event.

A highlight of Emily's University career has been her outstanding showing on Brock's wrestling team. The rookie has won five tournaments this season and finished in the top three at four others. On top of her numerous medals, Emily has been named OUA/CIS Female Rookie of the Year, cementing her place as one of the country's best rookie wrestlers.

"I was really excited for the opportunity to wrestle on the Brock OUA varsity team," says Emily. "Coming into university I thought this year would mainly be a building year, and it was, but I didn't expect much success in first year. Having the opportunity to be selected for the varsity team for OUAs was amazing, and qualifying for CIS made it even better. It was a fantastic experience to be a part of such a great team, and I am beyond happy that I chose to come to Brock this year. I'll wrestle at Junior Nationals on March 20 at Brock. That will be my final tournament for this season."

