Brock professor receives prestigious national teaching award

A Brock University professor known for his influential work on bullying and civility in teaching and learning has received one of Canada's most prestigious national teaching awards.

Professor Zopito Marini, a developmental and educational psychologist in the department of Child and Youth Studies, is a recipient of a 2010 3M National Teaching Fellowship from 3M Canada and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

"Professor Marini is both an outstanding teacher and an exceptional mentor to our students. He has that rare ability to connect with students in large first-year classes as well as smaller upper-level seminars," says Murray Knuttila, Provost and Vice-President, Academic at Brock. "He is a valued senior member of our faculty, a passionate teacher and a recognized and respected educational leader in our community."

Marini is the ninth Brock professor to be named a 3M National Teaching Fellow. He has been at Brock for more than 25 years and was the founding Chair of the University's popular department of Child and Youth Studies.

“I am extremely grateful for this award. It is not only a significant achievement for me personally, but also for the quality and scholarship of teaching at Brock,” says Marini. “For a university of our size, this is definitely a big deal. And I am honoured to share this success with other 3M Fellows and faculty at Brock who do so much to advance the quality of teaching at our University.”

Marini is a popular instructor with students and consistently receives one of the top rankings for teaching evaluations in his department. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his students, involving them as co-presenters on scholarly presentations and co-authors on many publications.

His distinguished contributions to teaching and learning at Brock are characterized by one of the main tenets of his teaching philosophy, that “the teaching should remain long after the teacher has gone.”

One of his past student notes: “I have absolutely no doubt that the opportunities Dr. Marini provided me with as an undergraduate student have been instrumental to my career successes. I’m still extremely grateful for the fact that whenever I need a helping hand all I have to do is call or email Dr. Marini and he’s always willing to offer me guidance and assistance.”
Marini also holds a Brock Chancellor's Chair for Teaching Excellence to support his ongoing work on the linkages between civility in the classroom and learning outcomes. In 2006 he was presented with the Faculty of Social Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Brock University Award for Distinguished Teaching, and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Teaching Award.

He is also well-known in Niagara and beyond for his expertise. He has taught educators, child-care workers and parents, and is often called upon to provide comments about social issues such as bullying, school violence and conflict prevention and resolution strategies.

The 3M National Teaching Fellowship is the only national teaching award for post-secondary education in Canada. It is given to individuals who not only excel in the teaching of their own courses but also demonstrate an exceptionally high degree of leadership and commitment to the improvement of university teaching across disciplines. A maximum of 10 awards are presented nationally each year among the 35,000 professional academics across Canada who are eligible.


## Rosemary Hale receives community award for her support of the arts

Dean of Humanities Rosemary Hale is this year’s recipient of the Laura Sabia Award, given annually by the Niagara Artists Centre to commemorate International Women’s Day. The award recognizes a Niagara woman who has made an outstanding commitment to the arts and furthered the careers of women artists.

Hale received the award because of her leadership in establishing a “much needed, first-class performing arts centre here in Niagara,” said Laura Thomas of the Niagara Symphony. She also supports local artistic endeavours, including the Niagara Symphony, Chorus Niagara, Lyndesfarne Theatre, Suitcase in Point and Theatre Beyond Words.

Hale said she is “positively thrilled” to get the award.

“Laura Sabia was an amazing and inspiring artist-activist woman,” she said. “It is a real honour to receive an award that carries her name.”

Hale is president of the Bicentennial Legacy Council, a bi-national organization committed to organizing commemorations around the War of 1812. She also serves as co-chair of the Regional Cultural Committee and a board director for the Niagara Symphony Orchestra.
During her time at Brock, new interdisciplinary initiatives have emerged, including Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Interactive Arts and Science program, dedicated to studies and training in interactive media.

Each year, art is commissioned as a gift to the Laura Sabia Award winner. Hale received a limited edition print entitled Trois Oeuf, created by St. Catharines artist Sandy Middleton.

**Professor awarded for her work in human resources**

A Brock business professor has received a top award for her research and contributions to human resources.

Deborah Zinni, associate professor of Human Resources Management, was awarded the Right Management HR Academic of the Year Award at the annual Human Resources Summit Awards on Jan. 26.

Zinni is chair of Organizational Behaviour, Human Resources, Entrepreneurship and Ethics and first got involved in human resources as an employee more than 30 years ago.

“I found I really had a knack for it in terms of organizing things and being able to deal with employees,” she said. “I like the way that HR systems work together with management systems to help organizations reach their goals.”

Over the past 25 years, she has sat on numerous committees at the Human Resources Professionals Association (HRPA). She is also past president of the Toronto West Human Resources Professional Chapter, and twice a year, helps students prepare for their national certification sponsored by the Canadian Council of Human Resources Association.

Since becoming a professor in 2002, her research interests have included union participation, the unionization of graduate students and the retention of Aboriginal employees. Most recently she has authored several papers on the volunteerism of older workers in healthcare. She has authored several textbooks, and increased the number of students studying Human Resources at Brock by working with her colleagues to develop the undergraduate MBA and MSc graduate programs.

The award, Zinni said, makes her feel honoured to be following in the footsteps of human resources professionals she respects.

“I’m very honoured to get that award,” she said. “There are a lot of other deserving people as well who do a lot to help the profession.”

Zinni’s favourite part of teaching, however, is the students.
“I really, really enjoy seeing students succeed. I just love when they leave here and are working in the field and I get an email from them telling me about how they’re doing.”

The HR Summit Awards are presented by the HRPA and the Canadian HR Reporter.

**Brock research institute releases report on local food in Niagara**

Brock University’s Niagara Community Observatory (NCO) recently launched its latest policy brief, which looks at issues affecting local food availability in Niagara.

Findings from the eight-page brief, “Niagara Food: It’s Nutritious, Delicious, and Available But We’re Not Buying It… Why Not?”, highlight some of the initiatives towards promotion of local food distribution and availability, while also outlining environmental and economic factors.

“This brief gives residents ways of being consciously aware of these factors, and ways to access local food,” noted David Siegel, NCO Director. For example, the Niagara Culinary Trail group suggests not only that eating local allows for interactions between farmers and consumers, but that if Niagara’s 435,000 residents spent just $10 of their grocery budget on local food each week, there would be a $226-million influx into the local economy each year.

The brief is available on the Observatory’s website: [www.brocku.ca/nco](http://www.brocku.ca/nco)

On March 18, the NCO hosted a community forum and panel discussion to mark the launch of the brief.

The panel included:
David Alexander, Councillor, City of Welland
Lynn Ogryzlo, Food Writer, Author and Culinary Activist
Terri Donia, Project Manager, Region of Niagara Integrated Community Planning

The event was held place at The Keefer Mansion, in Thorold.

The focus of the NCO is Niagara-specific research and its findings are intended to be a catalyst for discussion and action on the challenges and opportunities facing the region. The group conducts comprehensive in-depth academic research and community-oriented analyses on a wide range of local cultural, economic, environmental and social issues.

**Ned Goodman re-elected as Chancellor of Brock University**

Ned Goodman, one of Canada’s most significant investment industry leaders and business builders, has been re-elected to a second three-year term as Chancellor of Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont.

Goodman, whose new term will begin when his current term expires in October, was recently re-elected by the University Senate with the full support of the University’s Board of Trustees.

Beyond conferring all degrees and diplomas, his duties as Chancellor include playing a leadership role in advancing the University and in the educational welfare of Brock students. His first term as Chancellor was characterized by a period of robust growth for the University, in
terms of enrolment and in the completion or announcement of unprecedented infrastructure projects and facilities that will further transform the University’s dynamic learning and research capacity.

Goodman said he welcomes the opportunity to continue his role for another term.

“I have immensely enjoyed working with and being associated with Brock University,” said Goodman, “and I am delighted to remain as Chancellor. Brock is the type of innovative institution whose pursuit of excellence will inspire young minds to make Canada a world leader intellectually, culturally and economically.”

Brock President Jack Lightstone said the University is very fortunate to have Goodman remain as Chancellor, given his experience of professional and community achievement, and his legacy of success.

“Mr. Goodman’s knowledge, experience and advice has been invaluable to us throughout his first term,” said Lightstone. “As Brock’s presence and role continues to grow and evolve, both as a centre of education and research and as a community partner in Niagara and beyond, it is extremely important for us to have a seasoned leader like Ned Goodman as our Chancellor.”

Senate Chair John Sivell also welcomed the re-election of Goodman.

“Senate recognizes the wealth of experience and leadership in education, business and community service that Mr. Goodman brings to Brock University in the role of Chancellor,” said Sivell, a Professor of Applied Linguistics and Chair of Senate. “We look forward to his continued involvement as Chancellor as we work together with all of our partners to fulfill the academic mission of the University.”

Rudi Kroeker, chair of the University’s Board of Trustees, said the board was thrilled to support the Senate’s decision to ask Goodman to continue as Chancellor, “and more so that he has agreed to.”

“His breath and depth of insight critical to our service in the academy and community are a priceless resource,” said Kroeker. “He is an inspiration to us all, and we are proud to have him.”

**Brock announces first Marilyn I. Walker Chair in Creativity, Imagination and Innovation**

Brock University recently announced the creation and first recipient of the Marilyn I. Walker Chair in Creativity, Imagination and Innovation. The Chair is awarded to the Director of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts for the duration of their term as Director.
Derek Knight, the current Director of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, is the first person to hold the position. The endowed Chair supports building the school’s programs, enhancing its facilities and positioning it to be one of the best fine arts schools in North America, if not the world.

“Today we are announcing the first privately endowed Chair in the history of Brock,” said President Jack Lightstone. “This Chair represents a major step in the development of our University because it helps us fulfill our blueprint for the future — which includes fostering research and creative activity, expanding graduate and professional programs, enhancing interdisciplinary studies and community engagement. Our goal is to establish endowed chairs in all six faculties at Brock.”

Renowned Canadian fibre artist Marilyn I. Walker made the Chair possible with a $15 million gift to the University’s School of Fine and Performing Arts in November 2008 — the largest donation the University has ever received. The gift was endowed in perpetuity to support the future improvement of the School and its programming. This Chair represents the first tangible outcome of this vision.

“This announcement is about advancing the arts at Brock and in Niagara,” said Rosemary Hale, Dean, Faculty of Humanities. “It is also about enhancing our capacity to play a key role in partnering with our surrounding communities to influence the cultural redevelopment of our region as we work to build a world-class arts facility for our students, faculty, staff and patrons.” Funds associated with the Chair will be used to support programming and investments at the School to build up its and University’s reputation in the area of fine and performing arts.

Derek Knight has worked at Brock since 1985. He was educated at Croydon College of Art, London, England; Carleton University; the University of British Columbia; and State University of New York at Buffalo. He teaches courses in 20th century European and North American art history, contemporary art and theory, and contributes to the MA program in Studies in Comparative Literatures and Arts. In addition to his own production of photo-based, conceptual and site-specific art and participation in more than thirty group shows, Knight has developed a profile as an independent curator.

**Research conference focuses on the path to the marketplace**

New discoveries, whether it’s the development of new drugs or the design of new techniques and inventions, follow a circuitous route before we can find them on the shelves of our pharmacies or in our day-to-day workplaces.

The long road to take research from the laboratory to the marketplace was explored on March 3 at Research Café II, Curing What Ails Us – from Discovery to Market. Researchers from the Faculties of Applied Health Sciences, Business, and Mathematics and Science lead the café journey – from the cutting-edge world of science to testing and trials, and from acquiring funding and capital to marketing and promotion.

This was the second of two research cafés presented by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Brock Research and the Graduate Students’ Association as part of the 2009-10 Mapping the New Knowledges conference.

Marilyn Rose, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, says this was a unique opportunity to follow the motion of new discoveries as they make their way to important commercial applications.
“We always talk about research that makes a difference to the health and well-being of communities around the world – how does that happen? It’s an interesting conversation to have given the recent H1N1 situation,” she says. “This café highlighted the multiple perspectives and stages of research to market. It’s a journey that involves the commitment and dedication of research partnerships connecting faculty, graduate students, industry and business.”

The café was moderated by Ian Brindle, Vice-President, Research. It featured the following lead researchers:

- Martin Tammemagi, associate professor, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences
- Dirk De Clercq, associate professor, and Narongsak (Tek) Thongpapanl, assistant professor, Faculty of Business
- Jeff Stuart, associate professor, Faculty of Mathematics and Science
- Yousef Haj-Ahmad, professor, Faculty of Mathematics and Science, and founder of Norgen Biotek Corp., a biotechnology company based in St. Catharines

Several graduate students took part in the presentations, including Ellen Robb, a PhD student who works with Stuart. Robb is pursuing studies into the cellular mechanisms underlying the positive health effects of resveratrol, an active ingredient in red wine. Last year, she received a prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship to support her work.

“There is a strong health objective to Ellen’s work and it’s very relevant to the wine industry,” says Stuart. “Her research is a good example of the role of graduate students in driving discovery and innovation.”

The first café in November, “Research for a Changing World,” offered a diverse menu of research topics that address the challenges of today’s world and the impact on daily life – from how we play and learn to how we sleep and function.

**Encourage students to apply for research award**

The Library invites submissions for the annual Undergraduate Research Award, a prize designed to recognize and reward student research skills.

Students are encouraged to submit a 500-word essay describing library resources, services and research strategies used to complete a project or essay for an academic course. The $500 prize will be awarded to the student essay that best articulates what he or she learned during the research process.

Please encourage your students to submit an essay for this award. The deadline for submissions is March 31. Visit the Library Research Award page or contact Karen Bordonaro (kbordonaro@brocku.ca), instruction co-ordinator, for more information.
Brock, City of Welland announce partnership

Brock University and the City of Welland have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a framework for how they will work together on future projects.

In signing the document March 10 at Welland City Hall, Brock President Jack Lightstone and Welland Mayor Damian Goulbourne also announced the partnership’s first initiative and a significant step forward.

The University is agreeing in principle to a long-term lease of space to locate the Brock University Human Performance Centre in the Welland International Flatwater Centre. The Brock Centre will operate non-academic, revenue-generating activities that support the work of Brock’s Faculty of Applied Health Sciences.

The MOU establishes an understanding between both parties with respect to five key items:

- a feasibility analysis
- site identification and development
- financial collaboration
- public relations and communications
- government relations

“For Welland, this is a true milestone,” says Mayor Goulbourne. “We are entering not just into a stronger relationship with Brock University, we are entering a new chapter of our own history, a chapter of opportunity and achievement. This will put our community in a positive spotlight and be a lasting legacy of the games in our community for generations to come.”

“This project has wonderful potential for Welland and Niagara on a number of levels — from providing health and wellness support for our children, to creating a marvelous sport and training facility that will help make Welland a nationally and internationally known destination point,” says President Lightstone. “It is a terrific example of collaboration and progress, and we at Brock are proud to be partners with the people of Welland.”
**Fundraising for Haiti**

With fundraising efforts drawn to a close, the Brock community has raised $19,000 for Haiti earthquake relief, which with matching federal government funds means $37,166.08 for the humanitarian effort.

Brock’s contributions went to the Canadian Red Cross. On-campus efforts included:

- bake sales
- samosa sales
- a euchre tournament and Yuk Yuk’s comedy night sponsored by the Brock University Students’ Union
- an online donation portal
- donation jars around campus
- noon-hour busking by Biological Sciences professors Joffre Mercier, Fiona Hunter and Michael Bidochka, who played Irish music for Haiti donations

Campus Ministries also held a memorial service on Jan. 26.

Fundraising efforts culminated in a presentation by Justice James Turnbull, a Superior Court judge and co-founder of The Joy and Hope of Haiti.

“Over the past two months, members of the Brock community came together to raise money through the Canadian Red Cross for Haiti,” said John Kaethler, director of International Services.

“In addition to fund raising, the group promoted awareness on-campus of Haiti as a country rather than as a crisis.”

**Brock grads win big at Cuvée wine awards**

Graduates of Brock University’s Oenology and Viticulture program won half of the coveted Cuvée gold awards handed out at the 22nd annual Cuvée Gala held on Feb. 19 at the Niagara Fallsview Casino.

Brock grads Rob Power, Natalie Reynolds, Marc Pistor, Eric Pearson, Emma Garner, Lawrence Buhler, Richie Roberts, Tom Green and Jason Roller - all of whom have gone on to work at some of Canada’s leading wineries - collectively won 13 out of a total of 26 awards given for winemaking.

Cuvée is a wine competition whereby Ontario’s winemakers submit a selection of only their finest wines to be judged by a panel of their peers.

The winemakers and assistant winemakers won awards for their wines in the following categories (makers’ names in brackets):

* **Red wine**: Inniskillin Wines, Reserve Series Cabernet Franc 2007 (Marc Pistor)

* **Limited edition white wine**: Creekside Estate Winery, Reserve Viognier 2008 (Rob Power)
* **LCBO white wine**: Creekside Estate Winery, Pinot Grigio 2008 (Rob Power)

* **Sweet wine**: Konzelmann Estate Winery, Vidal Icewine 2007 (Eric Pearson)

* **Riesling**: Thirty Bench Wine Makers, Small Lot Riesling “Steel Post Vineyard” 2008 (Natalie Reynolds and Emma Garner)

* **Sauvignon Blanc**: Creekside Estate Winery, Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2007 (Rob Power)

* **Viognier**: Creekside Estate Winery, Reserve Viognier 2008 (Rob Power)

* **Cabernet Franc**: Inniskillin Wines, Reserve Series Cabernet Franc 2007 (Marc Pistor)

* **Meritage**: Thirty Bench Wine Makers, Small Lot Benchmark Red 2007 (Natalie Reynolds and Emma Garner)

* **Merlot**: Peller Estates Winery, Signature Series Merlot 2007 (Lawrence Buhler)

* **Red assemblage**: Wayne Gretzky Estates, Estates Series Shiraz Cabernet 2007 (Rob Power)

* **Syrah/Shiraz**: Fielding Estate Winery, Syrah 2007 (Richie Roberts)

* **Sweet wine**: Dan Aykroyd Wines, Signature Vidal Icewine 2006 (Tom Green and Jason Roller)

Brock’s Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) congratulates the winemakers for their success at such an important event for the Ontario wine industry.