

Grad Talk

A Newsletter from the Faculty of Graduate Studies at Brock University

In the Spirit of Giving

A \$1-MILLION MATCHED GIFT to establish the Dr. Raymond and Mrs. Sachi Moriyama Graduate Fellowships Award will benefit outstanding graduate students who are dedicated to generating new knowledge, creativity and innovation.

The fellowships were made possible through a generous \$500,000 donation by the Moriyamas who have contributed to the life of the University for more than three decades. The gift will be matched with \$500,000 through the Ontario Graduate Fellowship Program.

On December 14, at a celebration held in Pond Inlet, the University announced the fellowships and recognized the Moriyamas for their continued commitment. In addition to acting as Chancellor from 2001 to 2007, Dr. Moriyama also designed numerous buildings to serve Brock's educational mission and particularly its dedication to research and teaching.

"I am honoured to support graduate students and graduate studies at Brock, an institution with which I've enjoyed a warm relationship of more than 30 years," said Dr. Moriyama. "I'm confident that the diverse and important research that Brock's

graduate students are undertaking will benefit the world in many ways."

The fellowships will provide substantial awards to be presented each year to exemplary students beginning their graduate work at Brock. The revenue from the fellowship will be shared by the University's six academic Faculties to recruit the best and brightest graduate candidates.

"Attracting outstanding graduate students is a top priority," said Brock President Jack Lightstone. "Raymond and Sachi Moriyama's thoughtful and generous support of our graduate programs is key to enhancing the social, economic and cultural lives of communities around us in the Niagara region, Ontario, Canada and beyond."

Marilyn Rose, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, said the gift represents an acknowledgement of the growing reputation and value of Brock's graduate programs and "will provide an opportunity for graduate students to undertake new and enhanced research in areas of great social significance."

There are more than 1,250 full- and part-time graduate students enrolled in 38 graduate programs at Brock. The University continues to expand its graduate programs with attention to offering innovative and unique learning experiences in Canada.



From left: President Jack Lightstone; Yue Wang, MSc candidate in Finance; Hilary Brown, PhD candidate in Educational Studies; Dr. Raymond Moriyama; Mrs. Sachi Moriyama; Hannes Leisch, PhD candidate in Chemistry.



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Fighting AIDS with Education: Amy Fish

WHEN AMY FISH DECIDED to take a year off from teaching to finish her MEd, she was encouraged by her supervisor at Brock, Dr. Dolana Mogadime, to participate in a four-month internship at North West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa, to assess the effectiveness of the University's recent incorporation of HIV/AIDS information within the curriculum.

The internship program was established between the two institutions by Dr. Mogadime and Professor Kobus Mentz (of North West University). It has received funding from the Student Development Program of the Canadian International Development Agency and support from Brock International since 2005.

Fish's project is especially meaningful in light of the fact that five million people – more than 11 per cent of the population – are infected with HIV in South Africa alone. Although the legacy of Apartheid and social stigmatization delayed the implementation of a



MEd candidate Amy Fish with school children in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

comprehensive policy of HIV/AIDS information and prevention strategies, South African institutions are now responding by using education to disseminate accurate information, inspire positive attitudes and behaviour, and provide strategies for control and prevention.

With the assistance of Elana Oliver, Director of the AIDS Office Centre at North West University, Fish developed a questionnaire designed to assess the framework, nature and scope of HIV/AIDS information communication strategies that are being used by the University's Faculty of Education Sciences. She focused on issues such as academic freedom, gender, culture and identity, and the use of learning materials.

Fish visited local schools to gain additional insights.

"I was impressed by Amy's sensitivity to the pandemic and her understanding of the way it can be addressed through education," says Mentz. "One school principal told me that he would appoint her 'in a flash' if she ever wanted to teach at his school!"

Fish now has first-hand knowledge of the extent to which governance and education can effect development and inspire change. Reflecting on this "life-changing experience," she notes: "I am so grateful to Dr. Mogadime for offering me this opportunity. Without her encouragement and support, I would never have been able to do this."

Understanding Clumsiness: Sally Baerg

SALLY BAERG IS TAKING time away from her nursing career to focus on a Master's degree in Applied Health Sciences and to contribute to research into Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD).

Baerg's graduate work is part of a major study by the Physical Health and Activity Study Team (PHAST) that is led by her supervisor Dr. Brent Faught along with Professor John Hay (Brock) and Dr. John Cairney (University of Toronto). With funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, PHAST is providing new knowledge and awareness of what is a relatively unknown yet common childhood disorder that affects five to six per cent of school-age children.

"Children with DCD are born clumsy and lack the fine and gross motor skills necessary to perform routine tasks from writing and buttoning up shirts to the ability to throw and catch a ball," Baerg explains.

In the first part of its study, PHAST identified children with DCD through health assessments of 2,300 school-age children in Niagara. The research found that children with DCD suffer low self esteem and withdraw from social play. Their inactivity results in lower fitness levels and higher body fat, putting them at greater risk for cardiovascular disease. The second part of its study will focus on those health risks.

For her Master's project, Baerg will study children with DCD

and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

"More than half of the children with DCD suffer other conditions, the most common being ADHD," says Faught. "Sally is the first to look at the impact hyperactivity has on DCD children in relation to their physical activity and fitness levels."

Baerg and Faught hope the research leads to activity programs to help children overcome the emotional and physical challenges of DCD.

"As a mother of three children and a nurse in community practice, my instinct is to look for ways within the health-care system to help youngsters at an early age," Baerg says.

"After completing my degree I hope to offer information and ideas on how programs can be implemented in the future."



Dr. Brent Faught with MA candidate Sally Baerg, Community Health Sciences.

An Existential Entrepreneur: Cam Clayton



PHILOSOPHY MA CANDIDATE CAM Clayton might be described as a polymath. In addition to receiving acclaim for articles written on the subject of the French existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre, the Toronto native owns a sporting goods company and a certified organic farm near Niagara-on-the-Lake. He is also the

father of a four-year-old.

Clayton was drawn to consider graduate work after years of building up his businesses. Although he had earned an MBA from McGill University, he always regretted not having pursued his true passion: philosophy. Then, with the events of September 11, 2001 making travel to his company's manufacturing facility in Pakistan difficult, he decided to begin a part-time Master's degree at Brock. He found the Philosophy Department's specialization matched his own interest in existentialism and phenomenology.

"At first, it felt strange to be studying philosophy with an entrepreneurial mindset. I would never have sat through a three-hour business meeting in which nothing was resolved, but this is how three-hour philosophy seminars seemed at first: questions and problems multiplied, with nothing being resolved!"

Clayton adds that being a mature student he has the confidence and experience to trust and develop his own perspectives. Indeed, such perspectives brought him to a unique interpretation of Sartre's novel *Nausea*, so unique, in fact, that his supervisor Dr. Christine Daigle encouraged him to present his findings at the 15th annual North American Sartre Society's meeting at Fordham University, New York, in 2006. The paper has since been solicited for publication by the president of the UK Society for Sartrean Studies, Dr. Benedict O'Donohoe, in a collection of essays to commemorate the centennial of the philosopher's birth.

For his Master's major research paper, Clayton will continue to reinterpret *Nausea* by comparing the experience of time described therein with Sartre's analysis of temporality in *Being and Nothingness*. True to both his entrepreneurial and philosophical inclinations, Clayton promises that, although this comparison will be phenomenologically profitable, nothing will ultimately be resolved.

Where are They Now? Adote Anum (PhD 2007)

GRAD TALK RECENTLY CAUGHT up with Dr. Adote Anum of the University of Ghana. Taking a leave of absence from lecturing in 2001, Anum pursued doctoral studies in Psychology at Brock under the supervision of Professor Sid Segalowitz until 2006. He earned his PhD in October 2007. Anum's research focused on the cognitive processes involved in "fluid" intelligence, or the ability to reason in an abstract fashion.

GT: Why did you decide to pursue graduate work at Brock University?

AA: Friends pursuing post-graduate studies in Political Science at Brock told me that a doctoral program in Psychology had been inaugurated in 2001, and I was eager to work with Professor Segalowitz.

GT: What led you to the study of "fluid" intelligence?

AA: My Master's research questioned some of the conclusions made in the scholarly literature about the cognitive processes responsible for our ability to handle complex situations simultaneously. Professor Segalowitz's research and lab offered me the opportunity to consider these questions in greater depth.

Since returning to Ghana, I have been considering the developmental aspects associated with processing speed, working memory and controlled or executive attention. These all relate to what – nowadays – we might call "multitasking."

GT: How would you characterize your time at Brock?

AA: It was a great learning experience, especially in terms of teaching and research. I also appreciated the great research supervision I received from different faculty members in the

Department.

GT: Would you encourage other young scholars from Ghana to pursue graduate studies at Brock?

AA: Yes. On many occasions, I have told my colleagues and students about Brock's excellent social, developmental, personality and behavioral neuroscience programs. One day, I hope to be able to arrange to have a student spend a semester in the Department as part of their training program.

GT: What do you remember most of your time in St. Catharines?

AA: I think we were impressed by the opportunities that existed for us as family. For instance, when we came here, my wife was able to adapt her nursing qualifications at Niagara College, so that she could work in Canadian hospitals while I studied.

We miss living within a 20-minute drive of Niagara Falls and also the Boxing Day sales!



Professor Sid Segalowitz, Psychology, with Dr. Adote Anum at Convocation, October 2007



**Brock
University**



3rd Annual Mapping the New Knowledges Conference

BROCK UNIVERSITY PLACES THE spotlight on graduate research at the third annual Mapping the New Knowledges conference to be held Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5.

More than 120 students, representing each of Brock's six Faculties, will be involved in poster and oral presentations that will take place at the Pond Inlet and Brock's new Plaza Building.

Dr. John McNamara, one of the conference organizers, says the event is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to present their work to an audience of fellow graduate students, faculty and community members.

"Each year I am thoroughly impressed by the quality of our students, their commitment to their area of research and their professionalism in, what is for many, their first conference presentation," says McNamara. "This event is truly a venue where cutting-edge research will be shared with Niagara's community."

The conference will open with a Café Scientifique on Friday evening, a public forum that will focus on child health and obesity. The Café is supported by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and provides an informal setting to bring together researchers and members of the public to share information, expertise and opinions on research.

"We are very pleased to make the Café part of this year's conference," says Fran Chandler, Associate Director, Office of Research Services. "It is an inviting way for the community to engage with our students and faculty about areas of research that contribute to the quality of life for people of all ages."

The conference is organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Office of Research Services. Further details of sessions and the plenary speaker will be posted on the conference website at www.brocku.ca/gradstudies/conference.php

An Exemplary Graduate Student: Cindy Lee Scott

CINDY LEE SCOTT'S PASSION for antiquity originally drew her to Brock's innovative Classics program as an undergraduate student in 2000. As she completes her Master's degree eight years later, she has distinguished herself as both a proponent of and leader in graduate studies at Brock. For this reason, she was the Faculty of Humanities' first recipient of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Ralph Morris Award in December 2007.

The Award recognizes Scott's significant contributions both to the Classics Department and in helping to showcase graduate excellence at the University. In 2004, she was one of the main organizers of the 15th annual Brock University Archaeological Society's symposium to honour the internationally acclaimed classical archaeologist Emeritus Professor David Rupp. The event attracted international scholars and dignitaries. Scott also proved to be an inspirational teaching assistant when she worked with undergraduate students and her supervisor, Dr. R. Angus K. Smith, on an archaeological practicum at Priniatikos Pyrgos, Crete, in 2006.

"Cindy's role in inspiring others to pursue graduate work in Classics will have a lasting effect on the development of a strong graduate culture at Brock," says

Marilyn Rose, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The award is named for Professor Emeritus Ralph Morris who helped establish the GSA in the early 1990s.

Morris explains: "The award was

established to recognize a graduate student, nominated by a faculty member, whose academic achievements and extra-curricular activities speak well not only of them, but of Brock University as a place of graduate excellence."

As a testament to this excellence, Scott has participated in unique academic opportunities including an internship with Dr. Stefania Chlouveraki at the INSTAP study centre in Pachia Ammos, Crete, during the summer of 2007. And, it only gets better – in September 2008, she will begin the prestigious archaeological conservation program at University College London, England.



Cindy Lee Scott on site at Nemea, Greece, 2007.

Think Brock!

A publication of the **Faculty of Graduate Studies**, *Grad Talk* is edited and produced by **Sarah King Head** and **Heather Junke**. Past issues are available at www.brocku.ca/gradstudies/current/publications

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