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## **For Immediate Release**

### Brock University Students Bring Home Wine Tasting Honours

The results for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wine Tasting Challenge have just been released and Brock University grape and wine studies students have taken four of the top eight placements. In a competing field of almost 200 of the top sommeliers, wine professionals and amateur wine enthusiasts in Canada our Brock contingent came through strong.

In the very competitive professional category, Jakub Lipinski, Brock University business major and CAPS (sponsored by CCOVI) sommelier student, came in second. Jakub in addition to his current wine studies comes from a famous local wine family and completed the Brock University, "Introduction to Wine" course with honours. In the newly introduced spirits round, Brock University oenology and viticulture student and professional sommelier Barclay Robinson, took top honours with a first place finish. The spirits round was especially challenging as it came at the end of the hour long test. Due to his excellent training and experience Barclay was able to keep his palate fresh throughout the Challenge.

In the special amateur category where up-and-coming wine professionals are allowed to compete, two Brock students placed second and third. Amy Blake, oenology and viticulture graduate student in Dr. Gary Pickering's lab garnered second place. Amy's studies here at Brock are a continuation of her academic work which included top honours in our grape and wine studies program. Securing a strong third place finish was oenology and viticulture undergrad Rhiannon Plant. Rhiannon was thrilled at her placement and is already looking forward to next year's competition.

Dr. Isabelle Lesschaeve, director of the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture institute at Brock University stated, "We are so proud of our students' placements." As the administering and auditing body of this very important competition, we at CCOVI ensure a rigorous and equitable Challenge. It was wonderful to see our students rise above the very stiff competition. I believe that these results once again enforce the strength of our grape and wine studies program."

The Wine Tasting Challenge took place on November 27, 2006 in the Air Canada Club of the Air Canada Centre in Toronto. The total prize purse is over \$80,000 in cash and prizes and our winning students will be very happy to share in those winnings. For more information on the Wine Tasting Challenge and a complete listing of all the winners please visit [www.winetastingchallenge.com](http://www.winetastingchallenge.com)

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