Brock International Newsletter

Issue # 11 - Winter 2010

Focus and Commitment for Internationalization

Sandy Morales arrives as Brock's newest Emerging Leader in the Americas Program Participant from Colombia

Brock's 4th participant in the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP), Sandy Biviana Morales Serrato, will be arriving at Brock on March 12 from one of our partner institutions in Colombia - Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá. Prime Minister Harper announced the establishment of this new scholarship program during the Summit of the Americas in April 2009. The goal of this scholarship program is to support the development of human capital and promote a next generation of leaders in the Americas while strengthening linkages between post-secondary institutions in the regions and those in Canada. The scholarships are facilitated through institutional collaborations and student exchange agreements between Canadian and Southern institutions.

Ms. Morales is formally registered as a Brock International University Mentorship participant, as she will be undertaking a research internship for four months, joining Dr. Maria del Carmen Suescun Pozas in the Department of History to work on an existing research project in the area of memory, justice and reparation in Canadian scholarship and the Colombian diaspora. If you would like to meet Sandy Morales, and other newly arrived UM participants plan to join us at the Summer We Welcome the World Reception in June.

Symposium on Measuring Success of International Development Work

In partnership with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Brock International held its first Symposium on Measuring Success of International Development Work on February 12th during International Development Week 2010.

Dr. Greg Finn, Vice-Provost & Associate VP Academic, opened the symposium with a warm welcome to the participants. Sarah Earl, Senior Program Specialist of the Evaluation Unit at IDRC and co-creator of outcome mapping, talked about innovative ways to measure how development assistance affects the communities involved. The participants at the symposium enjoyed her interesting talk as well as took part in several interactive and innovative activities to understand various outcome mapping concepts.

Earl's talk was followed by two faculty presentations. Dr. Ana Sanchez, Associate Professor from the Department of Community Health Sciences, presented her recent research on The Honduras-Canada Teasdale - Corti Project: Turning Evaluation into a Learning Process. Participants were eager to hear about her experiences with her Honduran university partner and the large agency to which their project is accountable – the Global Health Research Initiative, a research funding partnership of five agencies and departments of the Government of Canada, including the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Health Canada (HC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

Dr. Maria del Carmen Suescun Pozas, Assistant Professor from the Department of History, shared her research on Conflicting Narratives, Endangered Archives and Peace-building in Colombia with the audience. She gave an overview of the steps she has taken to date and her plan for the future with regards to her research project and ongoing initiatives with research colleagues in Colombia.

Guests then enjoyed a networking lunch generously provided by the IDRC while enjoying some poster presentations by graduate students here at Brock. They had opportunities to talk to the speakers and each other, sharing and learning about their international development work and interests.

In the afternoon, Dr. Sandra K. Znajda, Assistant Professor from College of Sustainability at Dalhousie University, gave a brief overview of an earlier research project in which she took part on Evaluating Integrated Conservation and Development in Nicaragua. Dr. James Mandigo, Associate Professor from the Department of Physical Education & Kinesiology, presented on his research project on Physical Education to Promote Non-Violence and Empower Youth in El Salvador.

Faculty presentations were followed by an afternoon panel on "Evaluation from an Agency Perspective". The panel was chaired by Dr. John Corlett, Dean, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, and panelists included Vic Neufeld, National Coordinator from Canadian Coalition of Global Health Research, Ibrahim Daibes, Senior Program Officer from Global Health Research Initiative and Sarah Earl. They each discussed some of the more important elements of evaluation from an agency-point-of-view, and held an open discussion session with the audience.

The final reflections and closing remarks were made by Dr. John Corlett and Sheila Young, Director of Brock International. The symposium brought together a broad range of participants, including faculty members, staff and graduate students. There were also several other attendees from outside the university community such as the Ontario Public Interest Research Group and the United Way who were interested in learning about concept mapping, forms of evaluation and international development work. Plans are already underway to make the symposium an annual event – if you would like to be involved please contact Brock International.

From Left to Right: Sheila Young; Sandra K. Znajda; Sarah Earl; Ibrahim Daibes; Ana Sanchez; Vic Neufeld; Maria del Carmen Suescun Pozas

Successful Applicants of the International Course Support Fund 2009/10

Andrew McDonald, Department of History
MARS 3F50: Heritage of Viking Age and Medieval Iceland

Linda Ritchie, Department of Nursing
NUSC 4F92: International Community Health Nursing (Swaziland)

Erin Sharpe, Department of Recreation & Leisure Studies
RECL 4F55: International Field Experience in Recreation & Leisure (Cuba)

Barbara Burrell, Department of Classics
CLAS 3F75: Brock Archaeological Practicum in Mediterranean Lands (Italy)

James Mandigo, Department of Physical Education & Kinesiology
PEKN 4F32: International Perspectives on Development through Sport, Health & Physical Education (El Salvador)

This Spring and Summer 2010, more than 80 Brock students will take part in these exciting new academic field course and practicum experiences overseas. *Next issue we will feature a story by two student participants who took part in these new international courses abroad! Coming soon – Summer 2010 Issue*

Fundraising for Haiti

International Services acknowledged the hard work of all who helped raise money for the Red Cross relief in Haiti at a reception last Wednesday, March 3.

On January 12, 2010, the strongest earthquake since 1770 struck Haiti. The Haitian government estimates 200,000 have died as a result of this devastating event. The outpouring of support for Haitian relief efforts has been amazing from organizations to individuals all around the world. Brock University was not an exception with various groups on campus joining the fundraising effort for Haiti. International Services moved quickly to help coordinate the Haiti earthquake relief. John Kaethler, Director of International Services, called and facilitated an initial meeting on January 15 attended by many faculty members, staff and students who came together to discuss plans for fundraising activities on campus. International Services coordinated the collection of donations received from the broad range of fundraising events, amounting to a total of $37,000 – well above and beyond the initial fundraising goal! The Office of International Services expressed their deep appreciation and thanks to everyone who was involved and supported the month of activities and events for Haiti.

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Renewal of Agreement with Swedish Partner Institution

Brock's Exchange Agreement with Linnaeus University (formerly Växjö University) in Sweden was renewed this January. Renewal of the agreement was complete on January 26th when Sara Ahlstedt, International Coordinator, from Linnaeus University visited Brock.

Linnaeus University was formed on January 1, 2010 by merging Växjö University and Kalmar University College, both located in Southern Sweden. The "new" university is named after Carl Linnaeus, 18th century Swedish botanist, physician and zoologist, known as the father of modern taxonomy and ecology. Exchange students will find increased quality, more resources and opportunities for study in the new exciting academic environment in the Småland region of Sweden.

Sara Ahlstedt and Christina Bosilo, International Program Coordinator, International Services

Brock has formal academic linkages with about 110 universities around the world for student and faculty exchange, institutional cooperation and research collaboration. The newest are with:

- Linneaus (Växjö) University, Sweden, Exchange Agreement (renewal)
- Karlstad University, Sweden, Exchange Agreement (renewal)
- Swansea University, Wales, Student Exchange Agreement (renewal)
- The Saudi Arabian Cultural Bureau in Canada, Agreement of Cooperation
- El Instituto Superior de Cultura Fisica Manuel Fajardo, Cuba, Agreement of Cooperation
- Vietnam International Education Development of the Ministry of Education and Training, Agreement of Cooperation
- Hanoi University, Vietnam, Agreement of Cooperation

Visiting International Scholars of the Month: Dr. Fang Yu & Dr. Sayaka Masada-Atsumi

One of the "celebrities" of 'Both Sides of the Brain', Dr. Vincenzo De Luca, Professor of Biological Sciences, has two distinguished colleagues working in his laboratory. Dr. Fang Yu, from Leiden University in the Netherlands and Dr. Sayaka Masada-Atsumi, from Nagoya University in Japan, both postdoctoral graduates who joined De Luca's lab in September 2008 and October 2009 respectively.

Dr. Fang Yu is conducting research on plant molecular biology and plant biochemistry under Dr. De Luca's supervision. De Luca first met Yu when he visited Yu's previous lab in Leiden University. De Luca was well known in his research area at the time he visited Leiden University and Yu was pleased to talk about his research with him. Yu discovered De Luca's lab was focused on a combination of plant molecular biology and plant biochemistry which was a perfect fit for Yu's research interests. There was no reason for Yu to hesitate when De Luca invited him to join his research group after returning to Canada. More than one year later since Yu first arrived at Brock, he is happy to report on his positive experience as a member of De Luca's lab and as a Visiting International Scholar: "It is very hard in the beginning when everything is new, but when I first came to Brock, the department of Biological Sciences and Brock International were friendly and helpful, so that I felt welcomed and comfortable. I could easily adapt to my new environment and focus on my research."

On the other hand, Dr. Sayaka Masada-Atsumi's connection with De Luca was made at an academic conference - the Banff Conference on Plant Metabolism. Dr. De Luca offered some advice on the PhD work she presented at the conference and she decided to apply for a position in his lab expecting De Luca could be a great supervisor for her postdoctoral work. Masada-Atsumi's research activities are defined in a Genome Canada Grant entitled "Synthetic Biosystems for the Production of High-Value Plant Metabolites". She focuses on cDNA sequencing of 10 medicinal plants where she is focusing on discovery of the secoiridoid biosynthesis pathway in the Madagascar perwinkle and more generally on the mechanisms of production of plant medicines. In simpler words, Masada-Atsumi's duties in the lab are cDNA library construction from plant leaves, molecular cloning of target genes, and enzyme assays. Masada-Atsumi is acquiring new knowledge and techniques through seminars, discussions and working in the lab. Masada-Atsumi also participated in the annual event of Celebration of Nations jointly representing Japan by presenting at a table with other international students from Japan. Masada-Atsumi says, "I enjoy working everyday in the lab with my colleagues but it is also fun to be involved in outside of lab activities."

Dr. De Luca's lab is a real testament to the cultural diversity at Brock and the invaluable international collaboration that takes place here. Everyone has so much to gain – both academically and culturally, on a professional and personal level, when you are part of a collaborative and diverse research team like this one.

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Upcoming Deadlines for International Funding Opportunities

http://edit.brocku.ca/brock-international/funding-opportunities-for-inte

Fund	Administrator	Fund Type	Deadline
Canada-EU Program for Co-operation in Higher Education, Training and Youth	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)	Institution	March 24
Grants for Canadian and North American Language and Culture Teaching Assistants in Spain for 2010-2011	The Education Office of Embassy of Spain in Ottawa	Teaching	March 30
L'oreal Canada For Woman in Science Research Excellence Fellowships	The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)	Research	March 31
The ISTM Research Award Program	The International Society of Travel Medicine(ISTM)	Research	March 31
Canadian Window on International Development Awards	IDRC(The International Development Research Centre)	Research	April 1
Young Professionals Program	Inter-American Development Bank	Research	April 1
IDRC Doctoral Research Awards	The International Development Centre (IDRC)	Research	April 1
Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarships Program (Graduate Students)	Government of Canada	Scholarship	April 16
Canada-Chile Leadership Scholarship Program	Government of Canada	Scholarship	April 16
Canada-Commonwealth Scholarship Program	Government of Canada	Scholarship	April 16
Emerging Leaders in Americas Program	Government of Canada	Scholarship	April 16
NSERC and NSC in Taiwan - concurrent calls for proposals for joint research projects	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada	Research	April 30

Upcoming Visiting International Scholars at Brock

Visiting Scholar	Institute	Country	Collaborating Faculty
Sandy Morales	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana	Colombia	Maria del Carmen Suescun Pozas, Humanities
Esmaeel Asadi	Institute for Research in Fundamental Science	Iran	Stephen Anco, Mathematics and Science
Yuhuan Wang	Qingdao Agricultural University	China	Alice Schutz, Education
Cornelia Roux	North-West University	South Africa	Dolana Mogadime, Education
Tarmo Tirol	University of Tartu	Estonia	Christine Daigle, Humanities
Jurgen Kramer	University of Dortmund	Germany	Martin Danahay, Humanities
Anais Larroque	Polytech' Clermont-Ferrand	France	Yousef Haj-Ahmad, Mathematics and Science
Mohamed Ahmed Elhadidi	Mansoura University	Egypt	Derek Foster, Social Sciences
Gui Juan Wei	Hengshui University	China	Hedy McGarrell, Humanities
Rui Li	Central University Finance & Economic	China	Lawrence He, Business
Tongsuo Wu	Shanghai Jiaotong University	China	Yuanlin Li, Mathematics and Science
Du Min	Qingdao Agricultural University	China	Cheng Luo, Humanities
Adam Weaver	Victoria University of Wellington	New Zealand	David Fennell, Social Sciences
Amanullah Dar	Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad	Pakistan	Stephen Anco, Mathematics and Science

Upcoming International Events

Golden Week (Ogata Renkyu/Ogon Shukan)) in Japan

The Golden Week is a collection of four national holidays within seven days. In combination with well placed weekends, the Golden Week becomes one of Japan's three busiest holiday seasons besides New Year and Obon Week.

The national holidays making up the Golden Week are:
April 29, Showa Day – the birthday of former Emperor Showa.
May 3, Constitution Day – on this day in 1947, the new post war constitution was put into effect.
May 4, Greenery Day – the day is dedicated to the environment and nature because the emperor Showa loved plants and nature.
May 5, Children's Day – the Boy's Festival is celebrated on this day. Families pray for the health and future success of their sons by hanging up carp streamers and displaying samurai dolls, both symbolizing strength, power and success in life. (The Girl's Festival is celebrated on March 3.)

Golden week is an extremely popular time to travel. Popular foreign destinations are affected during these seasons by huge numbers of Japanese tourists.

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Brock International Newsletter is designed and edited by Liv Park and Sheila Young. Please contact liv.park@brocku.ca with comments or questions. Thank you.