

BROCK UNIVERSITY

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cool Climate Oenology & Viticulture Institute, Brock University
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OEVI Grads recognized for their distinct achievements

The decisions are in and 35 former students have been identified for special recognition at the Brock University Alumni Association's Alumni of Distinction Awards later this month. This year's ceremony marks the 35th anniversary year of the Brock Alumni Association.

The awards celebrate alumni who exemplify the Brock spirit through their scholarly, creative, humanitarian and professional contributions to society, and the list includes three graduates of Brock's Oenology and Viticulture (OEVI) program.

Rob Power, who graduated in 2000 at the top of the inaugural OEVI class, went on to become head winemaker at Creekside Estate Winery in 2002, and has since earned national and international acclaim for helping Creekside become recognized as an industry leader for innovation and unique products. Rob has won gold medals at competitions in France and England, and has helped Creekside be an award-winner at the Cuvée wine awards five years running. He also won Tony Aspler's Winemaker of the Year in 2008 at the Ontario Wine Awards, one of the youngest winemakers to ever receive that distinction.

Derek Kontkanen graduated from OEVI with an Honours Bachelor of Science in 2002 and his Masters of Science in oenology in 2005, later earning the position of winemaker at Jackson-Triggs Okanagan Estates in 2007. During his Masters program, Derek developed a method to help winemakers improve Icewine quality. His application of this method coupled with his talent has earned international acclaim, winning him the World's Best Dessert Wine trophy at the International Wine and Spirits Competition in London, England in 2010 for his Proprietor's Grand Reserve Riesling Icewine 2007 and again in 2011 for his Proprietor's Reserve Riesling Icewine 2007. Derek's dedication to improve and refine the flavour profile of Icewine is a major achievement and investment in the Canadian wine industry.

Lydia Tomek graduated from OEVI with an Honours Bachelor of Science in 2004, and joined Hernder Estates Winery in 2006 as head winemaker. Lydia's dedication to give back to her community is evident through the creation of Hernder "Pink", "Blue" and "It's Our Time" – wines whose proceeds benefit the Walker Family Cancer Centre. The creation of this series of wines has resulted in over \$250,000 being pledged toward cancer treatment in Niagara. In addition to her creative and inventive methods, Lydia is an active participant in various seminar and networking events that allow her to connect with and mentor students.

The Alumni of Distinction Awards event takes place Saturday, March 31 at 5 p.m. at Amici's Banquet Centre in Thorold. Rick Campanelli, Brock alumnus and previous Alumni of Distinction Award recipient (2007), former MuchMusic VJ and co-host of Entertainment Tonight Canada, is returning to host the event. For ticket information, contact the Alumni Association: 905-688-5550 x4502; alumniassociation@brocku.ca

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