

# Mark Wrzosek

## Vice President Student Services

### BUSAC Final Report

April 6th 2009

#### Events

The BUZIES had just passed this Friday and the event was a great success. There were many others that could not win awards who were also deserving, but congratulations to those who did. I would like to send a special thanks to all the volunteers and staff that made an effort to set up that day, the event could not have been what it was without you!

#### Clubs

This past weekend Jody and I attended ROOTS – African Caribbean Society's Culture Wave event. This event featured a variety of cultural displays from across the world. It was very well put together and was very interesting to see.

#### Final Overview

This year had been nothing but a great one. There have been hard times and there have been great times. Through all of my experiences at BUSU as an executive I have learned a lot not only about the business and how to run it, but about myself as well. This role has taught me a great deal and will prove to be a valuable experience in the future.

The following are some of the major things that have been accomplished over this past year.

As an exec elect I attended the ACERT conference in February of 2008. This was a valuable experience as it was my training course on how to run a first aid response team at Brock and how other schools run their response teams. It was my goal during campaigning to broaden the horizons of BFAR and put them onto St. John Ambulance's insurance policy to have them covered a great deal more in case of any kind of emergency and start the process of turning them into a 12hr service. This was not possible for several reasons. The main reason being that the university would not allow such a service to run all around campus therefore putting them onto another insurance provider proved a moot point. Security at Brock is all first

aid trained and other first aid responders were deemed unnecessary by the university so this goal fell to the wayside.

During the month of March the exec elects had all of our job postings up and began the process of hiring all the BUSU coordinators. This was a great experience for all of us as I'm sure not many of us have sat on that end of the interview process. All of our coordinators were eventually hired and no decision was ever regretted even to this point. I thank all of my coordinators for putting in all the effort that they did and most of all, for putting up with me for a year. I'm sure that was the hardest task for anyone.

March was also the month that the current executive team became alumni curling champions and have since then retired with said title. So I must apologize to the new executive for not getting the chance to curl against us, but really...I don't because we all know who the rightful champs are. No big deal!

The month of May began our time as official BUSU executives and this was started with our executive retreat. A weeklong trip where all the major decisions for the year were made. Endless discussions about our budget and ideas for Orientation were had. This week marked the beginning of our year and I knew right away that it was going to be a great one. This was the place where most of our initial ideas came forth. From my portfolio this began with inceptions of how O-Week was to look. The main idea, which was achieved, was to infuse Brock's colours and emphasize school spirit much more this year. Red and blue were used for the t-shirts and aspects of Brock Spirit were infused throughout. Once taken back to the office these initial ideas were taken even further with other ideas from each of the coordinators.

Once we returned from our retreat the major work began and for the summer time, that work was called O-Week. The sponsorship package was modified and created. The Orientation Coordinating Committee met for the first time and held regular meetings throughout the summer to keep everyone in check about what was to be happening for Orientation Week from each department.

During the end of May, Kristen, Chantelle and I attended the Shinerama conference which was held at Western university. This conference was another extremely useful learning tool about the Shinerama program. We all learned a great deal about the program and about how passionate many of the people that participate in it really are.

As the planning process for Orientation continued, initial ideas were taken many steps farther and other ideas were tweaked and changed to make for the best possible Orientation Week for all students. The week ran very successfully and many BUSU records were broken thanks to all the hard work put in by everyone.

Something new that the executive team put on this year and the request of Jody was the community BBQ initiative. This initiative was intended to be a proactive approach to show the community that Brock students are not ALL bad much like the papers and the media make them out to be. These BBQ were appreciated by all who came out to get some free food and will hopefully leave the community with a better sense of who Brock Students really are.

The next major event that was run by BUSU was the Presidents' Ball held in November of 2008. This was a fantastic event which really showcased what Isaac's could really look like if the right decorations are used. The building was transformed into a very classy venue to make it a great experience for all who attended.

Next on the big ticket list was Frost Week. This was a tough week to begin the planning process for because everything is underway by this point, unlike the summer time for O-Week. The planning process was to begin once Presidents' Ball came to an end, though an earlier jump at the planning stages might make things much easier in the future. Despite the hectic scheduling, all the planning for the week was still manageable. This week was not as big of a hit as Orientation Week for several reasons. Frost Week is a new week of events that will eventually build up to a higher status close to that of O-Week. This was also during the period where students are only beginning to come back to school after the holidays so the halls are not as full as they typically are. Also, there needs to be a greater emphasis on marketing for Frost Week prior to leaving for the Christmas holidays to let students know that it will be happening to possibly draw more of a crowd.

February was a month that began to get more and more hectic as it went on. Executive elections were held during the beginning of the month where I spearheaded the constitutional referendum campaign. The constitutional referendum was an initiative that was headed by Rob Lanteigne along with the input from the rest of the executive committee as well as from council. There needed to be some attention focused on running the yes/no campaign and since Rob was running for re-election, that task was taken on by me. I spent as much time as possible in the halls informing students about the referendum and what many of the amendments were and what the implications meant to students. The referendum passed on count night which makes my record 2 for 2 elections!

The budget cuts situation also came to fruition during the month of February which took up a LOT of the executive committee's time as well as other councillors and exec elects that devoted much of their time. Many meetings were had with staff and Brock executives in order to get a sense of what the situation was. Although this period in time was very time consuming, it was nevertheless a great experience. I took this role on to help students in any way possible and this was a great time to do exactly that.

Construction of the volunteer website began during February and the website is now in its final stages of construction. This was another one of my goals to achieve during elections last year so I must thank all the staff that put in the hard work to make it possible. This website will be a great tool for all future volunteers and will hopefully increase the numbers even more so than this year's.

The final big ticket event that was held this year was the BUZIES. This was the event to showcase all of the hard work from all BUSU staff and volunteers. Isaac's looked fantastic thanks to the help of staff and volunteers that put in their time. All of the major players within BUSU received recognition for their hard work and those that could not receive an award received shout outs. This event allowed me to reflect on the year that had passed and made me realize how much I will never forget my time at BUSU. I will never forget about any of the experiences that I have had and the many people that I have met. This role has taught me a great deal and they are all lessons well learned.

Thank you to all of council for being a part of my experience as a BUSU executive, you all made an impact on me and I will never forget it and thank you to all of the staff that have worked alongside me, without you none of this would have ever been possible...

~ PEACE, LOVE...Wrzosek ~

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