

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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John Banks wins first Glenn Carroll Teaching Fellowship

Dr. John Banks, an associate professor of business policy in Laurier's School of Business and Economics, is the first winner of the Glenn Carroll Teaching Fellowship. The announcement was made today.

The fellowship was created to honor Glenn Carroll, a Laurier business professor who was the first dean of the School of Business and Economics and was Laurier's Outstanding Teacher for 1986. He retired last year.

WLU alumni have donated and pledged about \$80,000 to the fellowship to date. Interest on this money will be used to support the development of teaching excellence in the business department.

As a professor of business policy, Banks specializes in the impact of globalization on firm strategy, and strategic management in multibusiness corporations. For the past few years, he has taught strategic management in Laurier's MBA program, and international business strategy at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Banks, a professor at Laurier for 15 years, said he was "deeply honored" to receive the fellowship. "My goal as a teacher has always been to do the best job I can in the classroom," he said.

Banks plans to use the proceeds from the fellowship "to investigate how the benefits of the case method (of teaching), which is used extensively in the business department, can be maintained with ever increasing class sizes.

"An essential aspect of the case method is the high involvement of students in class discussions of real business situations," he said. "This will become increasingly difficult to accomplish as class sizes become larger."

Banks will share the results of his research at a teaching workshop next year. "Hopefully," he said, "I will have some suggestions regarding how the benefits of the case method can be preserved through adjustments to teaching style."