

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Top achievers recognized at awards for business and economics *Family of Beth Kidnie among those contributing more than \$78,000 to help students*

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Contact: Dr. A. Scott Carson
Dean, Laurier School of Business and Economics
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2623

or Valerie Beyer
Marketing Manager, Laurier School of Business and Economics
(519) 884-0710 ext. 6054

WATERLOO – More than \$78,000 in donor-supported scholarships and bursaries – including two new scholarships worth \$2100 each from the family of Beth Kidnie – will be awarded to students when the school of business and economics (SBE) hosts its annual awards ceremony. The event also recognizes the SBE Outstanding Teacher of 2002.

The awards ceremony will be held in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall at 4 p.m. tomorrow. Ninety-seven students will receive awards valued from \$250 to \$3500 based on academic excellence, community involvement, student leadership and financial need.

For the first time, the Beth Kidnie Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to two students –Emily Griffith, in third-year business, and Chris Keller, in second-year business – for demonstrating both pursuit of excellence in work and study as well as generosity of spirit to fellow students. Established in memory of alumnus Beth Kidnie by friends, colleagues and the Jenkins and Kidnie families, the awards are two of the largest being handed out.

Beth (Jenkins) Kidnie had a long history with Laurier. She graduated from the business program in 1978 and father, John Jenkins, was a former dean of SBE. Her husband Peter earned a bachelor of business administration in 1975 and her brother, John Craig Jenkins, graduated with a bachelor of arts in history and English in 1997. At the time of her death, Kidnie was treasurer and finance director of DuPont Canada. She was previously chief financial officer of Co-Steel Inc. of Toronto.

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Second-year business student James Wierstra will receive a \$3500 scholarship established by ATS Automation Tooling Systems Inc. to recognize entrepreneurship. Tommy Wu, a second-year honours economics student, will be granted a \$2500 scholarship for completing first year with the highest grade point average.

“These students represent the best of the best in the school of business and economics and we’re very proud we can recognize them in this way,” said SBE dean Scott Carson. “The support of the business community has been phenomenal and it’s wonderful **that** we can offer the students so many rewards for their hard work and ingenuity.”

Support from the business and alumni community has grown consistently over the last five years, with nine new scholarships being awarded this year. Companies from all sectors have contributed and, along with numerous individually sponsored awards, students are recognized for their strengths in finance and accounting, entrepreneurial studies, marketing and economics.

Each year, the more than 2800 undergraduate students in the faculty select an outstanding SBE professor. Shirley Lichti has been chosen as this year’s recipient based on quality of teaching inside and outside the classroom, innovative teaching methods and course content. The seventh teacher to receive this award, Lichti specializes in marketing.