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Richard K. Taylor  
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Eileen Mercier, Laurier graduate  
named chairman of the board at WLU

Eileen Mercier of Toronto, a 1968 graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University, has been elected chairman of the university's board of governors for a one-year term. She has been on the board since 1985.

Mercier is vice-president and treasurer of Abitibi-Price Inc., of Toronto, the world's largest producer of newsprint.

She succeeds John E. Lauer of Kitchener, whose term on the board has now expired. Lauer is also a Laurier grad.

In other elections, Robert Astley, Waterloo, executive vice-president of Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada, became vice-president of the Laurier board; and Douglas Brock of Kitchener, vice-president and regional manager of Merrill Lynch Canada Inc., joined the board.

George Woods of Toronto, a former member, returned for a further term.

Mercier came to Laurier as an Ontario Scholar and also won a scholarship from the university. She graduated as a gold medalist in honors English, and then took a master's degree in Old English at the University of Alberta, and remained to teach and begin work on a doctorate.

But after a year, feeling that she had become too narrowly focussed, she decided to take a year off. A job offer at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto fell through at the last moment due to budget problems.

It was then that her career took a decisive turn.

She accepted a job in public relations with the Toronto Stock Exchange and enrolled in a Canadian securities course. She has been working in the world of finance ever since.

Mercier left the TSE to join the Toronto Dominion Bank, and was with the bank for six years, rising rapidly in rank and responsibility.

As portfolio manager for the TD capital group, she expanded the portfolio by more than \$5 million over a four-year period.

Mercier left the bank in 1978, and then was with Canwest Capital Corporation, Gulf Canada Ltd., where she was manager of financial strategy and planning, and then senior level internal consultant.

In 1986, she moved to the Pagurian Corporation in Toronto as vice-president, and then joined Abitibi-Price, as treasurer.

Mercier holds a master of business administration (MBA) degree from York University, taken through part-time studies while she was pursuing her career, and is a fellow of the Institute of Canadian Bankers.

In all, she has 18 years of broad senior financial and management experience in the financial services, integrated oil and communications industries, has international financing expertise covering Canada, the Middle East, and Japan, and board-level management experience with 10 Canadian and American organizations.

She is married to a banker, Ernest Mercier, and lives in north Toronto.