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Julia Ann Easley
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Laurier faculty member wins provincial award

Barbara Pressman, a part-time faculty member at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, has been honored by the Ontario Psychological Foundation for outstanding community service.

The award, to be presented at the foundation's annual banquet in Toronto Oct. 20, recognizes Pressman's leadership in establishing counselling programs in family violence.

Pressman has also been invited to address a symposium entitled "In place of violence" on the same day as the banquet.

"It's very moving," Pressman said. "I'm thrilled to be recognized by my colleagues."

As a marital and family therapist in private practice in Kitchener, Pressman has worked with a number of community groups and agencies.

She is co-ordinator of group treatment programs for wife abusers at the John Howard Society in Kitchener and on the board of directors of Women in Crisis, a shelter for abused women in Guelph. Nine years ago in Guelph, Pressman helped pioneer a program for wife abusers.

In 1986-87, Pressman was clinical social worker in residence

with the faculty of social work at Laurier and has been a part-time faculty member since then.

Shankar Yelaja, dean of the faculty, said the most creative and imaginative work in family violence counselling has been in offering therapeutic services to both the victims and the perpetrators of family violence.

"Pressman has played a critical role in raising societal consciousness through her public lectures, writings and therapeutic counselling," he said.

Pressman has published numerous articles on family violence in professional journals. Family Violence: Origins and Treatment is on the reading list of family violence courses, workshops and training programs across the country.

The 49-year-old native of Boston received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Boston University in 1959 and her master's degree of education from Harvard University in 1960.

She has lived in Waterloo for 17 years.