

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Laurier names four winners of prestigious scholarships

Waterloo (Feb. 6) — Four students have been named recipients of the prestigious President's Scholarships awarded by Wilfrid Laurier University.

Stephanie Tiffin of Kitchener, Valerie Weeks of Toronto, Shelly Birnie-Lefcovitch of Guelph, and Nancy Miller of Thornhill will be honored at a luncheon hosted by the president of the university, John Weir, on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

The \$1,000 awards are presented annually to one student in each of the university's faculties. The students must have outstanding academic records and demonstrate substantial involvement in student activities, performance, or other creative endeavors.

Stephanie Tiffin, who graduated from Forest Heights Collegiate Institute in 1988, is completing her final year of the honors history program. Last year, she was recognized as the top history student.

As a student representative on the university's senate for four years, Tiffin has served on three of its committees. She has also been on the executive of the campus Progressive Conservative club since 1988 and is a member of the history club. She was involved in the organization of two public festivals at the university.

Tiffin is past president of the Kitchener Young Progressive Conservatives and is on the senior executive of provincial and federal riding associations in Kitchener.

In 1988, she was one of 50 party members selected to attend its national leadership training institute.

Her other interests range from teaching English as a second language to playing the clarinet, skiing, and ballroom dancing.

Rick Elliott, assistant dean of arts and science, says he is pleased Tiffin is being recognized. "A bright and engaging student, she has succeeded in the difficult task of balancing community and academic responsibilities."

Valerie Weeks, who graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in music in 1978, is in the final year of Laurier's music therapy program.

An award-winning musician, Weeks has played the harpsichord with seven orchestras and nine chamber ensembles, and given solo recitals in North America, Holland, France, Switzerland, Germany and Great Britain. She has also recorded three compact discs.

An instructor in piano and harpsichord, Weeks has been president of the Toronto Early Music Centre and is currently on the board of Baroque Music Beside the Grange.

"Ms. Weeks is an artist of great talent and reputation," says Rosemary Fischer, director of the music therapy program, "and even more, she is gifted in the way she reaches out to others, especially music therapy clients."

Shelly Birnie-Lefcovitch, a student services professional at the University of Guelph for more than 16 years, began doctoral studies in social work at Laurier in 1991. Through his research on attrition and mental health, he is continuing to pursue efforts to help first-year students successfully adjust to university life.

Shankar Yelaja, dean of the faculty of social work, says Bernie-Lefcovitch is one of the top students in the doctoral program. "A self-disciplined and highly motivated student, he brings to the program a wealth of professional experience and knowledge."

As president of the Guelph United Way Social Planning Council from 1988 to 1990, Birnie-Lefcovitch played a key role in the expansion and enhancement of children's mental health services in Wellington County. Serving earlier on a council committee, he helped implement a system to better assess agency needs and allocate dollars.

Birnie-Lefcovitch has also been a member of the board of directors of the Mid-Western Branch of the Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers.

Nancy Miller, a 1988 graduate of Thornhill Secondary School, is completing her final year in the honors business administration program. The winner of three other awards during her time at Laurier, she recently represented the university in the preliminary round of a national business competition.

"She is an outstanding student," says Ron Craig, acting dean of the School of Business and Economics. "We're very proud of her for both her academic achievements and many contributions to the school."

Miller has represented business students on university committees and provided leadership to business student clubs, including the Tamiae Society and Alliance. She also helped to campaign for a special levy to enhance computer resources for business students, worked to establish a memorial scholarship, and served on the selection committee for a dean.

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