

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Contact: **Julia Ann Easley**
WLU Information Officer
(519) 884-1970 ext. 2070

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Clifford native tops graduating class at Wilfrid Laurier University

Waterloo, Ont. (May 25) – Eighteen months ago, even a cardiovascular test for a third-year physiology course predicted Joan Heimbecker's academic achievement: the results were above average.

And when the physical education major climbs the stage stairs at Wilfrid Laurier University's convocation, the results will also be above average: she will receive the Governor General's Academic Medal as the top student in the 1993 graduating class.

Heimbecker, who will graduate with a honors bachelor of arts degree, will be among more than 1,300 graduands to receive degrees and diplomas at 9:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. ceremonies at the Kitchener Auditorium on Saturday, May 29.

What made her first? A cumulative grade point average of 11.56 out of 12.

"I learn easily," says Heimbecker. "I just did the work."

The 24-year-old daughter of Harry and Marlene Heimbecker, she was raised on a dairy farm near Clifford. In 1987, she graduated from Norwell District Secondary School in Palmerston.

Heimbecker enrolled at another university but left after one term because she didn't enjoy the program. In 1989, she chose to attend WLU because of its sense of community and the comprehensive nature of the physical education program. The money she had made working as a waitress for a year helped buy the vehicle she used for the 50-minute commute.

Now working as a student placement officer at the Canada Employment Centre for Students in Kincardine, Heimbecker will pursue a master's degree in human biodynamics at McMaster University in Hamilton this fall. She wants to teach in the field of health and fitness.

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Note: Ms. Heimbecker can be reached at (519) 396-8322 (work) or 327-8688 (home).