

Wilfrid Laurier University



Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts named WLU Outstanding Teacher

Passion for teaching and down-to-earth approach make professor a favourite among students

For Immediate Release

**April 14, 2000
25-00**

Contact: Rowland Smith
Vice-President: Academic
(519) 884-0710, ext. 2221

or

Michael Strickland
Media Relations Officer
(519) 884-0710, ext. 3070

WATERLOO – A Wilfrid Laurier University professor with a passion for teaching and a down-to-earth approach has been awarded the WLU Outstanding Teacher Award for 2000. Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts, an assistant professor of languages and literatures, will receive the award at Spring Convocation on June 3.

A native of Uruguay, where she worked as a schoolteacher, Rowinsky-Geurts attributes her success to a passion for teaching and a respect for students.

"I'm very outspoken and down-to-earth. Students know they can come and talk to me because my door is always open," says Rowinsky-Geurts. "Professors aren't omniscient; there's a lot to be learned every day. If you show students your vulnerabilities, you win them over. I learn a lot from them."

Rowinsky-Geurts has worked at Laurier since 1994 and is one of only two full-time faculty members in the Department of Languages and Literatures. Since coming to Canada in 1976, she has obtained her BA in Spanish and Latin American Studies and an MA and PhD in Roman Languages all from the University of Toronto.