

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Cambridge students receive \$3000 Lansdowne Scholarships at Laurier
Award given for contributions to the community, good academic standing and leadership

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WATERLOO — A young artist who designed an outdoor mural for a local youth drop-in centre and cover art for her school's calendar of studies has earned one of the largest scholarships offered by Wilfrid Laurier University. Preston High School graduate Vilavanh Louangxay is one of three Cambridge students admitted to Laurier with a \$3,000 Lansdowne Scholarship.

Created in 1998 by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, the Lansdowne Scholarships are awarded to students with good academic standing, who demonstrate financial need and who have contributed to their school or community through volunteer leadership activities. The \$3,000 awards are renewable over four years and can contribute \$12,000 to the cost of a student's undergraduate education.

"I was always told by family and friends to look for scholarships," says Louangxay, who enters Laurier's sociology program in September. "My Mom has three children to support, so she really doesn't have to worry about me now. I wouldn't be able to attend university if it wasn't for this scholarship."

In addition to holding a part-time job and maintaining the highest academic standing in her class for three years in a row, Louangxay was a member of the art and badminton clubs, played varsity volleyball, helped with the annual seniors' dinner and participated in the Young Inventors Project for women in science and business. She also designed and painted the exterior mural for the Langs Farm Community Group Teen Drop-in Centre.

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Fellow Preston High School graduate Alyssa Nelson also received a Lansdowne Scholarship with her admission to Laurier's sociology program. While working two part-time jobs, Nelson joined her school's ski and Outdoor's clubs, played for the volleyball team, competed in track and field, participated in the Young Inventors Project and helped organize an annual seniors' dinner.

The third Cambridge student to receive the \$3,000 scholarship, Emilio Maggiacomo, was a Waterloo County Secondary School Athletics Association all-star football player in his final year at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School. Despite having a part-time job, he also volunteers with the Hespeler Minor Softball Association. Maggiacomo enters honours arts and psychology at Laurier this fall.

Three other Cambridge-area students have been awarded Lansdowne Scholarships in the past. In total, the scholarship fund has helped 28 Laurier students from select areas across Ontario, including the Ottawa/Carleton Region, the Region of Waterloo, the City of London, the former City of York, St. Thomas/Elgin County, Tillsonburg, Strathroy, Wawa, Marathon, Manitouwadge, Terrace Bay, Nipigon and White River.

Students who meet additional criteria – such as being a ward of the Children's Aid Society, residing in a group home or suffering from a permanent physical disability – are eligible for Mariposa Scholarships worth \$6000 per year. Students must apply specifically for both the Lansdowne and Mariposa Scholarships and must earn at least half of the value of the scholarship through part- or full-time work.

Over \$2.8-million in scholarships and bursaries is awarded to Laurier students each year. Dedicating over seven percent of its operating budget to financial assistance, Laurier ranks first in scholarships and bursaries spending in the primarily undergraduate category of the annual *Maclean's* rankings.