

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Director of successful academic press named Laurier Alumna of the Year
"Distinguished innovator" Sandra Woolfrey to receive award during Laurier Homecoming

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Contact: Sarah Nadalin
Manager, Alumni Relations
(519) 884-0710, ext. 3174

or Michael Strickland
Manager, Media Relations & Information
(519) 884-0710, ext. 3070

WATERLOO – The former director of one of Canada's premier university presses has been named Wilfrid Laurier University's 2000 Alumna of the Year. Sandra Woolfrey's award follows the 25th anniversary of WLU Press and her retirement after 16 years as director.

Woolfrey, whose nomination was supported by Laurier president emeritus John Weir and author Edna Staebler, will receive the award during Laurier's Homecoming celebrations. The award will be presented as part of the WLU Alumni Association's breakfast meeting, held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 30, in Wilf's Pub.

"Sandra has been a distinguished innovator in scholarly publishing since she became director of the Press in 1983," said WLU Press staff in their nomination letter. She "has brought distinction and honour to the university in her work as an advocate of scholarly publishing and as a committed member of the academic community."

Woolfrey received a bachelor of arts in religion and culture from Laurier in 1972, followed by a master of arts in the same discipline just two years later. She filled a number of roles at Laurier after graduating in 1974, including that of teaching assistant, research assistant and several executive-assistant positions. But it is in her role as director of WLU Press that she has had the greatest impact.

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"In her own quiet way, she has done an enormous amount to elevate the profile of Wilfrid Laurier University," says University of Toronto professor Peter Richardson, who edits the journal *Studies in Religion*, published by WLU Press. "She has played an important role across Canada, not only as head of Press but as a lobbyist and advocate for scholarly publishing."

Active in both the campus and local communities, Woolfrey is also an award-winning artist and poet. In a letter of support, noted author Edna Staebler observed that "as a visual artist and poet herself, Sandra is sensitive to talent in others. Her friendly approach, encouragement, and editorial skills have been welcomed by the writers she has worked with."

In addition to receiving the Alumna of the Year award on Saturday, Woolfrey will speak to first-year students and their parents at a reception and luncheon on Sunday morning.

For more information on this and other Homecoming events, please visit the university website at www.wlu.ca/~wwwalum/homemain.html.