

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Students beat market trends and turn profits in stock competition**

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WATERLOO – Students from Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo (UW) have won two national stock-market competitions, earning combined profits in excess of \$400,000 at a time when the market was in decline. Organized by Laurier and sponsored by the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSE), the competitions offer college, university undergraduate and MBA students a safe way to experience the risks and rewards of the stock market.

Laurier's Matthew Schmidt and Shelley O'Brien won the Wilfrid Laurier University National MBA Stock Market Competition. The pair earned \$5,000 for their university by turning a mythic \$100,000 portfolio into one worth \$461,184 in just 10 weeks.

The competition, which included 58 other teams, began on January 15 after a year of record highs on the market. The market began to fall by month's end and the decline continued until the competition ended on March 29. While technology stocks were the hardest hit, almost all sectors were affected.

"Schmidt and O'Brien were very attentive to the market and clearly had a good understanding of how options work," says competition director Sandra Hughes. "They took advantage of the declining market and made their profit primarily from put options on Research In Motion, Celestica, Ballard Power and Hummingbird Systems."

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A UW student, who entered the competition while taking a business course at Laurier, has won the Wilfrid Laurier University National University/College Undergraduate Stock Market Competition. Telm Perez defeated 277 teams from across the country by finishing with a portfolio worth \$162,111. He will receive \$1,000.

Perez's strategy during the competition, which ran from February 19 to March 29, included minor gains on stock in Antrim Energy Inc. and the purchase of Arc Resources Ltd. on margin. But his most significant trade involved the purchase of 15,000 shares of The Laser Centre on margin – a move that generated close to \$50,000 in profit.

To win any of Laurier's national stock-market competitions, students must finish with the highest portfolio value while meeting all of the eligibility criteria. They must spend at least \$50,000 during the competition and hold no fewer than 10 successful acquisitions on any combination of stocks, options, futures and bonds.

Competition sponsors include The TSE, Bell Canada, Sun Microsystems of Canada, Star Data Systems Inc. and the Institutional Equity Traders Association of Toronto.