

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Research on origins of psychoanalysis earns prestigious Polanyi Joel Faflak of English studies origins of psychoanalysis and case histories in literature

For Immediate Release

**November 05, 2001
73-01**

**Contact: Dr. Joel Faflak
Assistant Professor, English
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2807**

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

WATERLOO – An English professor studying the origins of psychoanalysis and case histories in literature has earned one of Ontario’s most prestigious research awards. Next week Joel Faflak, an assistant professor in Laurier’s department of English, will accept a 2001 John Charles Polanyi Prize.

The awards are given annually in five fields (chemistry, economic science, literature, physics, physiology/medicine) to exceptional researchers in the early stages of their careers. The \$15,000 prizes are awarded in recognition of the achievement of Dr. John Charles Polanyi of the University of Toronto, who won the 1986 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

“I’m thrilled,” said Faflak. “This is a great honor, and it’s especially great to be holding the award at Wilfrid Laurier’s faculty of arts. The department of English here is really one of the best places in which to be teaching and doing research in Canada.”

Faflak’s main research interest concerns the invention of psychoanalysis and the psychoanalytic case history in Romantic and post-Romantic literature. This literature, dating roughly from the late 18th to mid-19th centuries, easily predates Sigmund Freud. Faflak has found that the study of Romantic poetry and the psychological insights born of the genre provide him with a means of helping students understand and analyze the underlying complexities of the world.

– more –

The Polanyi Prize is considered one of Ontario's more prestigious academic awards because of its highly competitive process and the low number awarded.

“This is our first Polanyi Prize at Laurier and it is a significant honor for both Joel Faflak and the institution,” said Rowland Smith, Laurier's vice president academic. “It is gratifying to know that the excellence of new faculty members like Joel is being recognized in tough competition outside of Laurier. Congratulations to a very bright young researcher.”

The recipients will be honored on November 14 at a reception in Massey College of the University of Toronto. Attendants will include The Honorable Hilary M. Weston, Ontario's lieutenant governor; Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities; and John Fraser, master of Massey College.

The other 2001 Polanyi Prize recipient are Daniel Lidar, University of Toronto, chemistry; Joanne Roberts, University of Toronto, economic science, Carl Svensson, University of Guelph, physics; and Nina Jones, University of Toronto, physiology/medicine.