

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Alberta and McMaster universities win stock market competitions *Undergraduate and MBA students turn virtual money into impressive profits*

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WATERLOO (Ont.) – Students in Edmonton and Hamilton have won the winter 2002 editions of two national stock-market competitions. Rahim Murji from the University of Alberta won at the university-college level and a team from McMaster University won the MBA competition.

The competitions are two of several organized by Wilfrid Laurier University and sponsored by the Toronto Stock Exchange. All are designed to introduce participants to the fundamentals of investing.

“The competitors – in this case university, college and MBA students – are given the opportunity to experience the challenges of the stock market first hand,” said competition director Sandra Hughes. “The simulations allow them to strategize from the viewpoint of an investor and make decisions without risk of losing real money.”

Alberta’s Murji placed first out of 198 teams from colleges and universities across the country by turning his virtual \$100,000 into \$131,067 in eight weeks. In one move he earned \$20,000 by purchasing 201,000 shares of Infowave Software Inc. Murji also made minor gains on stock in Nortel Networks Corp., Nelson Resources Limited and Penn West Petroleum Ltd.

He will be awarded the very real first-place prize of \$1,000.

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Laurier undergraduate student Mohammad Hashmi placed second in the competition and will be awarded \$500 for his final portfolio value of \$116, 917. Third place went to Laura Ward from the University of Guelph, who finished with a total portfolio value of \$115,873. She will be awarded \$300 for her gains in trading.

Bruce MacKinnon, Leah Parkhill and David Smallhorn of McMaster University formed the winning team that beat 36 other MBA teams with total earnings of \$194,214.

The team secured first place with call and put options involving QLT Inc., Precision Drilling Corporation, Loblaws, Placer Dome Inc., Research In Motion, Ballard Power, Talisman Energy Inc., Celestica and ATI Technologies Inc. It also made profits on an equity purchase of Dion Entertainment Corporation.

The team earned a \$5,000 prize for McMaster.

Laurier runs stock market competitions in both the fall and winter terms. Sponsors include the TSE, National Post, Bell Canada, Sun Microsystems of Canada, CGI Systems Inc. and the Institutional Equity Traders Association of Toronto.

For more information on Laurier's stock market competitions, please visit <http://invest.wlu.ca/docs/resources.html>.