

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier alumni, students, faculty and staff named award winners *Awards recognize achievements, contributions of outstanding members of Laurier community*

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WATERLOO – The Wilfrid Laurier University Alumni Association is recognizing the achievements and contributions of some of the university’s finest members. The association will present five awards during its annual awards banquet at 6 p.m. tomorrow in the science building courtyard.

The association will present the awards to **Paul Heinbecker**, Canada’s ambassador to the United Nations, **Laird Christie**, the university’s first anthropologist, **Andrzej Gadomski**, manager of client services in the department of information technology services, **Colleen Miller**, a driving force behind the creation of Laurier Brantford, and **Andrea Harding**, a member of the Laurier student alumni (LSA).

The criteria is slightly different for each award, but all are meant to recognize the successes of a member of a particular group – alumni, faculty, staff and students. Generally they involve exceptional service, either to Laurier or the larger community.

“These recipients were chosen because of their outstanding career and volunteer achievements,” explained Brian Breckles, director of alumni relations. “These awards represent an appreciation for a significant contribution to the university, to the community or a combination of both.”

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Heinbecker, who graduated from Laurier in 1965 with a bachelor of arts, will receive the alumnus of the year award. In addition to a number of overseas postings, Heinbecker served for many years in the Prime Minister's Office, the Privy Council Office and in foreign affairs. Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has called him "one of the finest public servants I've ever encountered."

Christie will receive the Hoffmann-Little Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching, research and professional endeavours. He has been a professor at Laurier (and Waterloo Lutheran University) since 1969, has introduced a large part of the current curriculum and co-created the current honours program in anthropology. He is held in high esteem by his students for his willingness to take time to help them in any way he can.

Gadomski will receive the Schaus Award for outstanding contribution by a member of the administrative staff. He joined Laurier in 1985 following his emigration from Poland, where he received a bachelor's degree in electronic engineering and a master's degree in computer science. In addition to his work at Laurier, Gadomski is very active in the Polish community. He was president of the Canadian Polish Congress for the Kitchener, Guelph and Cambridge areas from 1988 to 1992.

Miller will receive an honorary alumna award for her role in the establishment of Laurier Brantford. As chair of the Grand Valley Educational Society's board of directors and co-chair of the student-life campaign, she is heavily involved in a fundraising campaign designed to upgrade the facilities to meet the needs of the rapidly growing Brantford campus. She is also the president of Colleen E. Miller Enterprises, which provides professional training to corporations.

Harding, a communications studies and sociology graduate now finishing her term as finance co-ordinator of the LSA, will receive the student alumna of the year award. In addition to her role in the LSA, she was also a member of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union emergency response team and volunteers at a youth drop-in centre for teenagers ages 12-17.