

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



CFI funds \$500,000 in new research infrastructure at Laurier

Agency supports projects on topics from water pathogens to financial mathematics

For Immediate Release

April 26, 2004

26-04

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WATERLOO – The Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is providing close to \$500,000 to Wilfrid Laurier University in support of projects involving seven researchers.

The CFI has granted five awards totaling \$485,024 from its New Opportunities Fund. The fund is designed to support the infrastructure needs of newly recruited faculty members who are undertaking leading-edge research.

“We are extremely pleased that CFI has recognized the caliber of seven of our newest researchers and the potential of their research,” said Adele Reinhartz, dean of research and graduate studies at Laurier. “The grants will support something that both Laurier and CFI value – an academic environment where new research and researchers are nurtured.”

Brent Wolfe, in the department of geography and environmental studies, is receiving \$196,937 to support the use of water isotope tracers in hydrological and paleohydrological investigations. His research focuses on present and past hydro-ecological variability of the Mackenzie Basin Deltas, in order to determine the potential environmental impact of river regulation, resource development and climate change.

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Todd Ferretti and Jeffery Jones, in the department of psychology, are receiving \$91,958 for equipment required for behavioural and neurocognitive investigations of human communications. Ferretti's research involves the tracking of eye movement to determine how the left and right hemispheres of the brain interact to create knowledge during sentence processing. Jones will study auditory feedback mechanisms in speech production and the contribution of visual information from the face to speech perception.

Robin Slawson, in the department of biology, is receiving \$84,879 for research into the detection, quantification and visualization of waterborne microbial pathogens. Her research involves the detection of waterborne pathogens that survive in low quantities and pose a threat to water quality. She seeks to understand the relationships between survival mechanisms and pathogenic potential.

Giuseppe Campolieti and Yongzeng Lai, in the department of mathematics, are receiving \$55,800 to apply high-performance computing to financial derivatives pricing, risk management and mathematical modeling. The grant will be used to purchase computer hardware to advance several numerically intensive research projects. The cluster of computers will also augment an existing network, known as SHARCNET, that supports interdisciplinary research involving several universities.

Lisa Teather, in the department of psychology, is receiving \$55,450 to study the effects of aging, environment and diet on behavioural, neurochemistry and endocrinological measures. Her research involves determining the effects of various conditions, particularly aging and the environment, on various systems that contribute to memory. Her aim is to determine the impacts of specific conditions on memory.

The five infrastructure grants were announced as part of a larger announcement made earlier today. In all, 33 Canadian universities received \$29.9 million from CFI's New Opportunities Fund.

"Today's investment in state-of-the-art infrastructure will help support the development of world-class expertise in communities across the country and help to attract the best research minds in the world to Canada," said The Honourable Lucienne Robillard, minister of industry and minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the regions of Quebec.

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The CFI is an independent corporation created in 1997 by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure. Its mandate is to strengthen the ability of Canada's universities, colleges, research hospitals and other non-profit institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development that will benefit the country.