

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Canadian history scholars will study Normandy battlefields

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WATERLOO - Sixteen highly qualified university students have been selected for two weeks' intensive touring and study of the Normandy battlefields.

The students will be based in Normandy from May 26 to June 12 and will participate in all 60th anniversary events surrounding D-Day commemorations. The list of students was released today by the chairman of the sponsoring Canadian Battlefields Foundation, Lt.-Gen. Charles Belzile, and the foundation's director of education, Terry Copp, who will lead the study tour.

Copp, who is also a professor of history at Wilfrid Laurier University and the director of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS), said: "In our 10th year of funding such bursaries, we now see over 100 alumni sharing their newfound knowledge of Canadian history and the contributions Canadians made in the Second World War with students across the country."

LCMSDS assists in both the co-ordination of the tour for the Canadian Battlefields Foundation and publishes a tour book entitled *Canadian Battlefields in Normandy: A Visitor's Guide*. The guidebook, created by Copp and military historian Mike Bechthold, will be used by the students throughout the study tour.

Four students from Ontario universities, including two from Laurier, have been selected for the tour. John Maker, 30, is completing a master of arts (MA) at Laurier and has been accepted into doctoral (PhD) program in history at the University of Ottawa. Jim Wood, who will also be assisting on the tour, is doing a PhD at Laurier.

Chris Finnie is completing an MA in history and Christine Mathers is working on her final year of a bachelor of arts in honours history (co-op), both at the University of Waterloo. All four Ontario candidates hope to teach at the university or secondary level.

The list of bursary recipients also includes three students from western Canada. Christine Leppard, 20, and Laurel Halladay, 36, are pursuing MAs and PhDs, respectively, in history at the University of Calgary. Bryan Tennant, 22, from University of British Columbia, is working toward a PhD and wants to teach at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering.

Participants from Atlantic Canada include three students from the University of New Brunswick (UNB). Robert Dienesch, from Windsor, Ontario, is completing a PhD in history; Brent Wilson, from St. Catharines, Ontario, is a part-time lecturer in UNB's department of history, and 27-year-old Jeremie LeBlanc, is studying Acadian history.

Lloyd Taggart, 25, from Halifax, the grandson of two WW II veterans, is enrolled in graduate studies in the teacher education program at St. Francis Xavier University. Twentytwo-year-old Myrienne Dube, currently at Dalhousie University in New Brunswick, has a BA from the University of Moncton. Alexandre Carette from University of Montreal is currently pursuing a master in political science. Audrey Tariff, 21, of Levis and Marie-Noel Boisjoli, 24, of Gatineau are studying history at the University of Ottawa.

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