

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Alumni awards presented to five members of Laurier community** *Two awards go to retiring military history professors – Terry Copp and Barry Gough*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – The Wilfrid Laurier University Alumni Association (WLAAA) is honouring two distinguished military history professors, Terry Copp and Barry Gough, with teaching awards on the eve of their retirement. Copp will be presented with the inaugural WLAAA Faculty Mentoring Award while Gough will receive the Hoffman-Little Award.

Laurier will also recognize the achievements and contributions of Robert Byron, retired executive director of finance and administration, Michael Belanger, director of residential services, and Michelle Gamble, president of the Laurier Student Alumni. The recipients will accept their awards on May 20 at 6 p.m. at the WLAAA annual awards banquet in Laurier's science building courtyard.

“These awards recognize the accomplishments and contributions of outstanding alumni, faculty, students and staff,” explained Brian Breckles, director of alumni relations. “The achievements of these recipients have been significant in contributing to the Laurier community.”

Copp will receive the mentoring award as recognition of his dedication in supporting and assisting his students. A renowned historian in modern military and strategic history, Copp has been teaching at Laurier since 1975 and has been a pillar of the history department. This award is a tribute to his passion for teaching and mentoring students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

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Copp will retire from teaching this June, having taught more students than any other instructor in the history department. He will continue to lead the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies.

Gough, who has been at Laurier since 1972, will receive the Hoffman-Little Award for his excellence in teaching, research and professional endeavour. His exceptional research in military and naval history is matched only by his teaching record and support of students.

Gough has also contributed to the Laurier community in many other ways. His jazz band, the Barry Gough Quartet, plays at convocation parties, awards ceremonies and special events. He has supported Laurier athletics, culture and the arts. Gough also retires in June and will split his time between Waterloo and Victoria.

Byron will be named an honorary alumnus for his contributions and inspiration to the Laurier community. As the executive director of finance and administration from 1997 to 2003, he had a significant impact on many aspects of campus life, including innovative operating procedures and collective agreements. Prior to joining Laurier, Byron was chief administrative officer for the City of Waterloo.

Belanger, who has held several positions at Laurier since 1977, will receive the Schaus Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution as a member of the administrative staff. In his current role as director of residential services, he oversaw the growth of the residence system as it grew from one accommodating less than 1,000 students to more than 3,000. Belanger has also been extensively involved in numerous campus committees and events.

Gamble, who is now finishing her term as president of the LSA, will receive the Student Alumna of the Year Award. The award acknowledges the volunteer work of a student who demonstrates leadership and has been instrumental in building bridges between current students, alumni and Laurier administration. In addition to her role in the LSA, she was the co-ordinator of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union emergency response team and helps high-school students with special needs. She has completed degrees in classical archeology and classical studies, with a minor in history.