

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



King City students take top honours in national stock competition

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**Contact: Sandra Hughes
Director, Stock Market Competition
(519) 884-0710 ext. 4104**

**or Lisa Fanjoy
Co-ordinator, Stock Market Competition
(519) 884-0710 ext. 4106**

WATERLOO – King City may be home to the next generation of Bay Street stock experts. Students from King City secondary school have won first place in a national stock market competition run by Wilfrid Laurier University.

Gabby Uzunomur, Daniel Howard, Alex Swift, Matt Rossetto and Stefano Cappuccitti won the winter 2004 National Secondary School Stock Market Competition, turning a virtual \$100,000 into a portfolio worth \$132,283 in just 12 weeks. The team's advising teacher, William Schoenhardt, can be reached at (905) 833-5332.

The King City team had some success with equity purchases of ConjuChem Inc. However, its greatest success came in the buying and selling of option contracts in QLT INC., Biovail Corporation, Suncor Energy Inc., Talisman Energy Inc. and Alcan Inc. that, together, generated over \$40,000 in profits.

"Students learn valuable lessons about investing, decision-making and research skills by participating in the competition," said Sandra Hughes, director of Laurier's national stock market competitions. "The team from King City and the other winners succeeded by exploring strategies and implementing them as a team."

The winter competition ran from February 2 to April 22 and included 438 teams from 69 schools. As the national winner, the King City team will be awarded \$500 and a scholarship to Laurier worth \$1,000. The competition also awards the first-place team from six different regions \$250, second place teams earn \$100 and third places are worth \$50.

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The regional winners are:

- Ontario (South and West) – Local students Ron Fichter, Matt Campbell and Laura Alarie from St. John’s-Kilmarnock school in Breslau won with a portfolio of \$113, 996. The team earned over \$8,000 with a purchase of 1,250 shares in PetroKazakhstan Inc. Subsequent investments in Research In Motion and Stantec Inc. netted an additional \$10,000. Advising teacher Simon Beatty can be reached at (519) 648-2183.
- Ontario (North and East) – Amanda Robinson and Victoria Bolton from Bishop Smith Catholic high school in Pembroke finished with \$99,657 by profiting from equity purchases of Canadian National Railway Company and the Hockey Company Holdings Inc. Advising teacher Jack Rosien can be reached at (613) 735-5496.
- Ontario (Toronto) – Shakun Ohri, Shikha Wanchoo, Taranjit Panpher and Paramjit Mann from West Humber secondary school in Etobicoke won with \$99,809, built on a strategic purchase of shares in Magna International Inc., made early and held until almost the end. Advising teacher Gary Heighington can be reached at (416) 394-7570.
- Ontario (Greater Toronto Area) – Saad Zakria, Ghadah Yousafza, Aneeqa Butt, Manpreet Jodha and Inem Chahal from The Woodlands school in Mississauga took first place with \$126,426, having bought a significant number of shares in Research In Motion Ltd. using a margin account and holding them until a timely sell netted over \$30,000 in profits. Advising teacher Campbell Coulter can be reached at (905) 279-0575.
- Eastern Canada – Kaitlin Doherty-Hooton, Carolyn London, David Tallis and Brian Tremblay from Saint John high school in Saint John, New Brunswick, finished first with \$110,920. The team secured the win by earning over \$5,000 with a purchase on margin for shares in Research In Motion Ltd. and an equity purchase of shares in ElectroVaya Inc. that added about \$7,000. Advising teacher Paul Hodgins can be reached at (506) 658-5358.
- Western Canada – Michael Rowland, Michael Simpson and Todd Van Verkel from Lacombe Composite high school in Lacombe, Alberta, finished with \$106,284. The team bought an options contract on Magna International Inc., which added almost \$8,000. Advising teacher Darrin DeMale can be reached at (403) 782-6615.

Sharian Mirza, Diane Sewram, Heli Prajapati, Derek Pearce and Adwaitkumar Trivedi from West Humber secondary school in Etobicoke won the Huntly McKay Award. The \$500 award goes to the team from the fall or winter competitions that best embodies the spirit of competition by fully participating in active trading and experimenting with a range of investment strategies.

The West Humber team traded on 45 of the 76 days in the competition and made 69 successful transactions, spending just over \$860,000. Team members used all the investment vehicles presented in the competition, including their margin account and short positions, to build a successful portfolio worth \$107,047.

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Each spring the competition hosts a banquet to honour the winners of the fall and winter competitions, for Ontario's regional winners and for the Huntly McKay Award recipients. This year's awards will be presented at the University Club of Toronto at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 31.

Laurier offered its first stock market competition in 1972 and now runs them at the high school, university/college and MBA levels. Held twice each year, the national competitions teach participants about investing as they monitor stock quotations, submit daily trade requests and view their portfolios on-line. The National Post, Sun Microsystems Canada Ltd. and CGI Group Inc. are major sponsors of the competition.

For more information on Laurier's stock market competitions, please visit the Web site at <http://invest.wlu.ca>.