

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Olympian Cheryl Pounder helps celebrate Outstanding Women of Laurier

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WATERLOO – Two-time Olympic gold medalist Cheryl Pounder will deliver the keynote address on leadership at a new event designed to recognize the contributions of female athletes. The Outstanding Women of Laurier reception and luncheon will take place at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 23, at the Waterloo Inn & Conference Centre. This will be Pounder’s first public appearance in the region since returning from Turin.

A highlight of the luncheon will be the presentation of the Outstanding Women of Laurier Award to its first recipient. The award recognizes a female Laurier student who combines athletic and academic achievement with an active commitment to leadership and the development of young athletes through community teaching or coaching.

“We feel Cheryl embodies the qualities recognized by this award. We are extremely proud of all that she has accomplished, here at Laurier and on Olympic ice,” said Peter Baxter, director of athletics and recreation at Laurier. “She is an amazing role model for women athletes.”

Pounder is a Laurier graduate who earned an honours degree in kinesiology and physical education in 2000. She played on the 2002 and 2006 Team Canada Women’s Hockey team, bringing home Olympic gold from Salt Lake City and, most recently, Turin.

She was recently inducted into the WLU Golden Hawk Hall of Fame and is an Assistant Coach for the Women's Hockey team.

Pamela Wallin, Canadian Consul General, New York, and honorary Laurier alumna, will host The Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon. The career of the Saskatchewan-born journalist has spanned more than 25 years and several continents. With an honours degree from the University of Regina in psychology and political science, Wallin began her career as a social worker at the Prince Albert Penitentiary in Saskatchewan.

A fascination with federal politics inspired Wallin to move to the Ottawa bureau of the *Toronto Star* in 1979. In 1981, she was recruited by CTV as co-host of *Canada AM* with Norm Perry.

In 1985, Wallin became the first woman in Canadian network television history to be appointed Ottawa Bureau Chief when CTV named her to this position. She conducted the annual year-end interviews with the Prime Minister and, over the years, has interviewed Prime Ministers Trudeau, Mulroney, Chrétien, Turner, Clark and Campbell, and has covered everything from politics to wars to economic summits in world capitals.

For more information on The Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon, please visit <http://www.laurierathletics.com/owl>.

Tickets are available at Wilfrid Laurier University and at The Waterloo Inn & Conference Centre.