

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier grad takes top honour in Canada-wide accounting exam

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WATERLOO – Jennifer Hayton, a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University’s School of Business and Economics, received the highest marks in the country on the Canadian chartered accountants’ qualifying exam. Hayton won both the gold medal for Ontario and the Governor General’s gold medal for the highest standing in Canada for the 2006 Uniform Evaluation (UFE).

Hayton graduated from Laurier with a bachelor of business administration (BBA) in 2005, and is currently articling with KPMG in Waterloo.

“It’s an achievement just to pass this exam,” explained Hayton. “But it is an honour to do well among the other candidates who are of such high calibre.” Citing the support of her co-workers and family – she has a husband and three-year-old daughter who “provided distraction when I needed it” – as key factors in her success, Hayton also recognized the importance of her academic and professional training. “My education at Laurier provided me with a good foundation of technical knowledge, and KPMG led me through the whole process,” she said.

"We are delighted to see Jennifer receive this well-deserved honour," said Laurier dean of business and economics, Ginny Dybenko. "She is an outstanding student and a dedicated scholar who stood out even above the 2,136 very talented chartered accountant students from across Canada. This success demonstrates the quality of our students and supports my belief that Laurier business graduates rank with the very best in the world."

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Hayton represents the fourth Laurier graduate to receive the Canadian gold medal standing since 1993. “We’re very proud of our graduates,” said Bill Banks, area coordinator for accounting at the Laurier School of Business and Economics. “It reflects well on Laurier’s business school that our grads have achieved gold more than those of any other Canadian university. We’ve also received the Ontario gold medal six times since 1993, which puts us at the top of all the Ontario universities.”

Laurier’s former gold medal winners have all pursued successful careers: Paul Van Bakel, honours BA '92, is now the chief financial officer at DALSA; Dennis Kavelman, honours BBA '93, is the chief financial officer at RIM and Sarah Hadley, Honours BBA '01, is the manager of corporate taxation at RIM.

Written once a year, the UFE is an internationally recognized test that qualifies chartered accountants to practice public accounting.

With more than 3,000 students enrolled in its programs and approximately 100 full-time faculty members on campuses in Toronto and Waterloo, the Laurier school of business and economics is one of Canada’s largest and most innovative business schools. Please visit www.wlu.ca/sbe for more information about the SBE.