

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Laurier's global MBA leaders honoured at Toronto gala

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TORONTO — Arriving from as far away as Mexico and Thailand, nominees for the inaugural Laurier MBA Alumni Awards gathered in Toronto on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007 to celebrate the excellence and innovation demonstrated by Laurier MBA graduates.

“At Laurier, we feel strongly that the success-track of our graduates is a true testimony to the strength of our MBA program. We are extremely proud of our graduates—they are our best ambassadors and have long been sought-after by the largest and most important companies around the world,” said Laurier dean of business and economics, Ginny Dybenko.

In addition to highlighting the achievements of MBA alumni, the evening was designed to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Laurier's prestigious Toronto program, and to provide an opportunity for current students to network with alumni, faculty and employers. The keynote speaker for the evening was Laurier's new president, Dr. Max Blouw.

Awards were presented in four categories: Outstanding Executive Leadership; Outstanding Innovation and Achievement; Outstanding CMA / MBA Alumnus; and Recent Graduate - MBA Alumni Award of Distinction.

The Laurier MBA Alumni Award winners include:

Outstanding Executive Leadership

Bruce Hodges '97

Bruce has proven himself to be an international financial powerhouse. Now president and chief executive officer of Manulife Insurance (Thailand) PCL, he has worked in the life insurance and financial services industry for over 17 years in Canada, the U.S., Japan and Thailand. During his career, he has worked in banking, insurance and technology. Like many successful senior

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executives, Bruce has held diverse roles including product development, marketing and communications, operations, IT, and HR, before being recognized in his current general management role. Bruce received both his BBA and his MBA (with distinction) from Laurier and has been a frequent speaker at financial services events as well as having published research on the deregulation of financial services.

Outstanding Innovation and Achievement

Dave Lacey '95

Dave, a licensed and active racing driver in the Rolex Sports Car Series, is currently serving as senior vice-president, corporate development for Brookfield Asset Management with a focus on growth in the residential real estate services sector. Dave has also served as a founding partner in The Futura Loyalty Group and currently sits on the board and the audit committee. After completing his MBA at Laurier, Dave held positions at Affinity Investments, a brokerage firm focused on servicing affinity and alumni associations, The Loyalty Group (Air Miles), and he co-managed the \$75-million Borealis Financial Technology Fund.

Dave is actively involved in the not-for-profit sector as Ontario chairman for the Children's Wish Foundation, an organization he has been involved with for more than 10 years. Dave also serves on the National Board and Finance committee for ACE (Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship), a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship in Canada.

Outstanding CMA / MBA Alumnus

David Hayter '98

In nine years since graduating from Laurier with his MBA (CMA and CMC), David has soared to controlling one of Canada's largest and most influential pension plans. Directly out of Laurier's MBA program, David developed a critical international perspective by traveling the globe for Ernst and Young as a financial consultant.

Leveraging this experience, David was scooped up by Manulife Financial, quickly moving into a vice-president's role as head of Global Securities Operations, managing offices around the world in New York, Boston, Tokyo and London, and considered one of the firm's top young executives.

David went on to join the Hospitals of Ontario Pension Plan where he holds the position of chief financial officer. Like many Laurier grads, David is also very active in his community, raising thousands of dollars each year for a number of charitable organizations. This past summer, David hosted a champagne tasting at his home in Toronto to raise money for Project Peter, which helped a young boy come to Canada for life saving surgery.

Recent Graduate - MBA Alumni Award of Distinction

Debra Gillies '07

A graduate just this year of Laurier's Toronto-based combined MBA and CMA program, Debra Gillies worked full time throughout her academic career and is currently the director of finance at Maple Leaf Foods. She received the unprecedented mark of 99 per cent on her final CMA exam and has the honour of holding the highest CMA exam mark in Canada this year. Typical of Laurier grads, Debra views her accomplishment with a high degree of humility and looks forward to participating in future alumni events so that she can mentor future graduates.