

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



For Immediate Release

**Feb. 7, 2008
13-08**

Laurier professor awarded prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship

Contact: Dr. Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts
Department of Languages and Literatures
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 2835

or Kevin Crowley, Associate Director
News & Editorial Services
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070

WATERLOO – Dr. Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts, a professor and chair of Wilfrid Laurier University’s Department of Languages and Literatures, is the recipient of a prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship.

The award, widely regarded as the top teaching honour in the country, recognizes excellence in the classroom and educational leadership. This year, 52 nominations were received from universities across Canada and 10 awards were given out.

“We are delighted at this success by Dr. Rowinsky-Geurts,” says Dr. Max Blouw, president of Wilfrid Laurier University. “Laurier prides itself on the learning environment for our students and it is people like Dr. Rowinsky-Geurts who make Laurier such an outstanding university for undergraduate learning.”

In her 14 years as a professor at Laurier, Rowinsky-Geurts has influenced the lives of hundreds of students who have enrolled in her Spanish language and literature classes, and Mediterranean culture courses. She is also well known for her memorable workshops and presentations. Rowinsky-Geurts specializes in contemporary Spanish and Spanish-American literature, and her research is recognized worldwide. She has won numerous awards, including a Wilfrid Laurier University Outstanding Teaching Award and Faculty Mentoring Award.

“The classroom is my life and it’s where I’m the happiest,” says Rowinsky-Geurts. “There is a kind of magic that happens when I’m teaching, and I get so much pleasure from the students and their eagerness to learn. Having the chance to share my research with students is one of my most rewarding experiences. I feel privileged to be recognized and humbled by all the opportunities and support that I’ve had at Laurier.”

- more -

This is the third time a 3M Fellowship has been awarded to a Laurier professor. Dr. Michael Moore, a professor in Laurier's Department of English and Film Studies was honoured in 1993, and Dr. Michel Desjardins from the university's Department of Religion and Culture received the award in 2001.

The 3M National Teaching Fellowship is sponsored by 3M Canada and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE). The award includes a lifetime membership in STLHE, a citation and an invitation to participate in a weekend retreat and awards banquet.

The fellowship will be presented to Rowinsky-Geurts June 19 at the STLHE annual conference at the University of Windsor.