

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Wilfrid Laurier University Alumni Association pledges \$50,000 to the Centre for Co-operative Education & Career Development

For Immediate Release

**April 15, 2008
41-08**

**Contact: Kevin Crowley
Associate Director: News & Editorial Services
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070**

WATERLOO, ON — The Wilfrid Laurier University Alumni Association (WLAAA) has pledged \$50,000 to the new Centre for Co-operative Education & Career Development.

The centre, which opened in fall 2007, provides students with a comprehensive and innovative career education environment that develops partnerships throughout Laurier, and facilitates connections with employers and the broader community.

“One of the key mandates of the alumni association is to contribute to the ongoing development of the university,” said Tom Berczi, president of WLAAA. “Projects such as the Centre for Co-operative Education & Career Development, which benefits the entire student body, are of particular importance to us, and we hope that other alumni will follow our lead and support similar worthy causes at Laurier.”

The centre offers programs and services for thousands of Laurier students and alumni as they enter the workforce, including speakers’ series, lunch-and-learn sessions, career-related seminars and interview preparatory sessions. Within the past year, the centre has hosted over 500 workshops and events for both students and alumni, with attendance of about 15,000.

In recognition of this gift, one of the centre’s second-floor seminar rooms will be named after the alumni association. These rooms provide the necessary space to offer workshops on such topics as resumé writing and interview skills, as well as employer information sessions and other presentations.

“We are so grateful to the alumni association for their generous support,” said Jan Basso, director of Co-operative Education & Career Development. “Students will benefit from the

- more -

Laurier alumni association donates to Co-op and Career Centre/2

increased programming which is now offered through the expanded workshop space in the new centre.”

The alumni association is no stranger to giving. In 2006, the association donated \$1 million towards four projects at Laurier because of the positive effects each had on the student experience. WLAAA provided \$500,000 to improve Alumni Field; \$200,000 was earmarked for the completion of the library’s information commons; \$125,000 funded the renovation of an addition to Alumni Hall; and \$175,000 helped fund the printing and distribution of an additional yearly issue of the alumni magazine, Laurier Campus.

The new Centre for Co-operative Education & Career Development also features a comprehensive career-development program for the more than 750 Laurier students with disabilities. The program provides students with inclusive services and support to investigate career options and assist them with their transition to the workforce.