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## **Olympic cyclist to speak at Outstanding Women of Laurier event April 2**

WATERLOO – Leigh Hobson, a local cyclist who won a bronze medal at the Montreal World Cup of cycling and competed at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, will deliver the keynote address at the fourth annual Outstanding Women of Laurier event Thursday, April 2 starting at 11 a.m. at the Waterloo Inn Conference Hotel.

A highlight of the luncheon will be the presentation of the Outstanding Women of Laurier Award to a student-athlete selected from among four finalists. The award recognizes a female Laurier student who successfully combines athletic and academic achievement with an active commitment to leadership and the development of young athletes through community teaching or coaching.

“The Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon is an important event as it champions the work of our outstanding female student-athletes and the impact they’re having within our community,” said Peter Baxter, director of athletics and recreation at Laurier. “Leigh Hobson’s keynote address promises to be a real highlight. She certainly knows a lot about achieving personal excellence. It’s hard not to be inspired by a woman who competed in her first Olympics on the same day she celebrated her 38<sup>th</sup> birthday.”

In 2006, Hobson took a leave from her teaching job at a Cambridge high school to focus on her cycling career. By 2008, the Waterloo native had won a bronze medal at the Montreal World Cup. Later in the year, Hobson competed at the Beijing Olympics and finished as the top North American in the women’s road race.

The Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon will be hosted by Daiene Vernile, anchor and producer of the CTV current affairs program *Provincewide*. Originally from Toronto, Vernile began her broadcasting career at multicultural radio station CHIN. After working as the station’s legislative reporter for many years, Vernile moved to Texas and reported for an ABC affiliate. In the early 1980s, she returned to Canada and has worked at CTV Southwestern Ontario ever since.

For more information about the Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon, or to purchase tickets online, please visit [www.laurierathletics.com/owl](http://www.laurierathletics.com/owl).