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The "Moodivator" to speak at Outstanding Women of Laurier event

WATERLOO – Carole Bertuzzi Luciani, also known as the "Moodivator," will deliver the keynote address at the fifth annual Outstanding Women of Laurier event Wednesday, March 31 starting at 11 a.m. at the Waterloo Inn Conference Hotel.

Luciani's address promises to leave the audience in stitches. Since 1980, she has spoken to hundreds of thousands of people in her quest to enlighten and entertain.

"Carole is a dynamic speaker, who is well versed in exploring women's issues and life lessons," said Peter Baxter, director of athletics and recreation at Laurier. "A long-standing friend of Laurier, we are very pleased and excited for her to deliver the keynote address at the luncheon."

Luciani is not only a long-time friend of Laurier, but also a parent of three children who have all worn the Golden Hawk uniform. Her eldest son, Dante, played football for Laurier from 2004-2007 and is now playing with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Vince has been playing football at Laurier since 2006, and her daughter Alena is a first-year varsity basketball player.

A highlight of the luncheon is 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.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating the Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon for the fifth time," Baxter said. "This event showcases our exceptional female student-athletes and the impact they are having within our community."

The Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon will be hosted again by Daiene Vernile, anchor and producer of the CTV current affairs program, *Provincewide*, and a Laurier alumna (BA '85). 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 <u>www.laurierathletics.com/owl</u>.

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