

NEWS RELEASE



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Brittany Shaw named Outstanding Woman of Laurier

WATERLOO – Brittany Shaw has been named the 2011 Outstanding Woman of Laurier. Shaw, the co-captain of the Laurier swim team, received the award today during a luncheon at the Waterloo Inn Conference Hotel.

“Brittany is a talented athlete, an excellent student and a committed volunteer,” said Peter Baxter, Laurier’s director of athletics and recreation. “This event gives Laurier the opportunity to showcase our exceptional female student-athletes and how they inspire lives of leadership and purpose.”

Shaw is a fourth-year biochemistry and biotechnology student from Kitchener, Ontario. She has been a member of the women’s swim team since her first year at Laurier and became captain in her third year.

“I’m proud to be here representing Laurier women, not only as successful students, but also as successful athletes who somehow find time to volunteer in our community,” said Shaw. “I’d like to thank my classmates and teammates. Together we represent a community at Laurier that strives for excellence.”

Shaw accepted her award in front of more than 300 people attending the awards luncheon. Thirteen women competed for the prestigious award this year, including two who joined Shaw as finalists: Hanna Burnett and Samantha Schmalz.

Shaw’s greatest achievement on the swim team was in her third year, when she made four individual Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national time standards. In 2010, she travelled to Egypt representing the World Lifesaving Championships and was selected for the national team.

In Shaw’s spare time, she is a coach with the Region of Waterloo (ROW) swim club and volunteers for the Special Olympics as a coach for their swimming program. She also volunteers for the Students Offering Support (SOS) organization, and recently travelled to Nicaragua with SOS to help build a school for an underprivileged community.

Laurier launched the Outstanding Women of Laurier award in 2006 to recognize female students who combine athletic and academic achievement with an active commitment to the community through volunteerism.

The event included a keynote address by Canadian figure skater and Olympic bronze medalist Joannie Rochette, and was hosted by Laurier alumna Daiene Vernile, anchor and producer for CTV Southwestern Ontario’s *Provincewide*.

This year’s event raised \$20,000 to help support women’s athletic initiatives, scholarships and the mentoring program at Laurier.