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Global expert on asset management to speak at Northern Finance Association conference, hosted by Laurier

Waterloo – Noted finance scholar Andrew Karolyi of Cornell University will deliver the keynote address at the 24th annual Northern Finance Association (NFA) conference, hosted by Wilfrid Laurier University.

The event is a premier North American finance conference, with participation from major academics and practitioners from top universities and institutions around the world. It is the only annual Canadian academic finance conference with a history of over 20 years. The conference will take place in Niagara Falls, Ontario, from Sept. 28 to 30, 2012, and is being co-organized by three Finance professors in Laurier's School of Business & Economics: Brian Smith, Madhu Kalimpalli and Phelim Boyle.

"In the wake of the global financial crisis, the issues that will be discussed at this conference have an enormous bearing on the health of our societies and the lives of their citizens," said Smith. "This is a chance for scholars to share ideas on some of the most pressing financial challenges facing the world today."

Topics under discussion include the global financial crisis, executive compensation, corporate governance, derivatives and credit risk, and other crucial issues related to the functioning of the global economy. Scholars presenting at the event represent leading national and international bodies such as the Bank of Canada, the U.S. Federal Reserve, Oxford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Nearly half of all our participants this year are from outside Canada," said Kalimpalli. "It's a truly international conference, and one of the most prestigious events of its kind in North America."

Keynote speaker Andrew Karolyi, who is alumni professor of asset management and professor of Finance at Cornell, is an internationally renowned scholar in the area of investment management, with a specialization in the study of international financial markets. His research has been covered extensively in print and electronic media, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, CNBC and many others.

Karolyi, who holds a PhD from the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago, also currently serves as editor of the *Review of Financial Studies*, one of the top international journals in finance.

The Bank of Canada is the lead sponsor of this year's conference, and Laurier is providing funds that will be used to enhance opportunities for graduate student participation. Approximately 50 per cent of participants this year are from Canada, 40 per cent are from the United States, and about 10 per cent from other nations in Europe, Asia and elsewhere. This year's event was the most selective in the NFA's history, with approximately one in four submitted papers accepted.

The event takes place at the Marriott Gateway on the Falls hotel. For more information, visit the conference's web site at <http://northernfinance2012.org>.