

NEWS RELEASE



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Laurier announces finalists for Outstanding Women of Laurier Award

WATERLOO — Wilfrid Laurier University has announced three finalists for the annual Outstanding Women of Laurier Award. The award will be presented at a luncheon March 29 at the Waterloo Inn Conference Hotel.

The Outstanding Women of Laurier (OWL) Award recognizes a female Laurier student who combines athletic and academic achievement with an active commitment to leadership and the development of young athletes through community teaching or coaching. The event has generated more than \$230,000 for women's athletic programs, scholarships and Laurier's mentor coaching program since it began in 2006.

Cassie Campbell-Pascall, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and the first female hockey player to be inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, will deliver the keynote address. Daiene Vernile, anchor and producer of CTV Southwestern Ontario's current affairs program *Provincewide*, will host the event.

The finalists for the Outstanding Women of Laurier Award include (in alphabetical order):

Hanna Burnett: Burnett is a fourth-year Film Studies and History major from Oshawa who plays on Laurier's varsity women's lacrosse team. She was named women's lacrosse rookie of the year (2008-2009) and won the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Championship in 2008 and 2010. Burnett has also been named OUA MVP, an OUA first- and second-team all star, and was honoured with Laurier's Academic Achievement Award for maintaining strong academics while competing in varsity athletics. Burnett is actively involved in volunteering in her hometown to help coach young talent. She works closely with the Oshawa Jr. Blue Knights girls and coached the inaugural season of the Toronto Winter Lacrosse Program this past year.

Laura Crocker: Crocker is a fourth-year Psychology major from Scarborough and the skip for Laurier's varsity women's curling team. She won the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Championship in her first season, and this past year, she won back-to-back OUA Championships and recaptured the CIS Championship last March. Crocker represented Laurier and Team Canada at the Kariuzawa International Curling Championships in Japan, where she captured a gold medal. A two-time Academic All-Canadian, Crocker volunteers her time as a Little Rock instructor and assists in the elementary school program Rocks and Rings. Outside of sport, she is actively involved in a developmental education classroom where she works with seven students with developmental delays.

Caitlin Muirhead: Muirhead is a fourth-year Kinesiology major from Waterloo, and is a member of Laurier's varsity women's hockey team. Since joining the Golden Hawks in 2008-09, Muirhead has won three OUA Championships as well as a CIS silver and bronze medal. She was also honoured as a CIS Academic All-Canadian at the conclusion of the 2010-11 season. This year, she enjoyed her best statistical campaign at Laurier, registering career highs for goals, assists

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and points. An active member of the hockey community, Muirhead has volunteered her time with the Haliburton Hockey Haven as a camp instructor and took on a similar role with the Laurier women's summer hockey camp. Away from the rink, she has worked with a Parkinson's patient at the Sun Life Financial Movement Disorders Research Centre at Laurier.

This year's OWL keynote speaker, **Campbell-Pascall**, was captain of Canada's National Women's Hockey Team from 2001 until 2006 – making her the longest-serving captain in Canadian hockey history. She is also the only captain, male or female, to lead her team to two Olympic gold medals, in 2006 and 2002.

In 2006, Campbell-Pascall became the first woman to do colour commentary for CBC's Hockey Night in Canada. When not working as a TV analyst for TSN's women's hockey coverage and for Hockey Night in Canada, Campbell-Pascall dedicates her time to charitable endeavors in support of Ronald McDonald House.

The Outstanding Women of Laurier luncheon leadership sponsors include: RBC, Waterloo Inn Conference Hotel, M&M Meat Shops and Miller Thomson LLP.

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