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## Laurier announces The Dunkley Chair in War and the Canadian Experience

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is establishing The Dunkley Chair in War and the Canadian Experience, made possible through a \$1.5 million gift from the Dunkley Charitable Foundation. Two Laurier alumni, Brad Dunkley (BBA '98), co-founder of Waratah Advisors, and Sara Dunkley (BBA '99), president of Stellar Outdoor Advertising, created the foundation.

“We believe that researching and teaching Canada’s military history is important,” said Brad Dunkley. “Nearly 115,000 Canadians have lost their lives while in service for our country. Telling our veterans’ stories, learning the lessons of war, and understanding how soldiers, their families and our society have been affected by war, is one way to honour those who have given us so much.”

Laurier will be seeking a strong academic leader to fill the chair and further enhance Laurier’s success in teaching and researching Canada’s military history. The position will also expand the course offerings in Laurier’s Department of History.

“Most importantly, the position will ensure a long and bright future for the Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies,” said Dunkley.

Laurier Professor Emeritus Terry Copp, a leading Canadian military historian and director of the Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS), described the establishment of the Dunkley Chair in War and the Canadian Experience as a vital contribution to the study of some of the most important chapters in Canadian history.

“The presence of the chair will confirm Laurier’s role as a leading international centre for research and education in the fields of military history and war and memory studies,” he said.

Copp founded LCMSDS in 1991 with Laurier Professor Marc Kilgour. Originally supported by the Department of National Defence through its Security and Defence Forum, LCMSDS has become a major research and teaching centre with a robust outreach program that includes conferences, lectures, books, papers, articles, blogs and the publication of *Canadian Military History*, an internationally circulated journal. LCMSDS is also connected with military centres and historians around the world, and offers guided tours in Europe for students, teachers and private groups wishing to explore the Canadian battlefields and learn more about Canada’s contribution to both world wars.

“The generous gift from the Dunkley family is visionary for both the university and the country,” said Max Blouw, Laurier’s president and vice-chancellor. “The Dunkley Chair in War and the Canadian Experience will examine issues of tremendous importance to Canada, such as the role of war in defining the Canadian state, military law and the concept of just war, Canadian security and defence policy in the 20th and 21st centuries, and the impact of war on our soldiers and civilians.”

Brad and Sara Dunkley are also strong supporters of Beautiful World Canada, a charitable organization that provides educational scholarships for high school, college and university students in Sierra Leone, Uganda and South Africa. Sara Dunkley is the founder and president of the organization and Brad Dunkley serves on the board of directors.