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Laurier students to attend UN celebration of the first International Day of Women and Girls in Science

WATERLOO – Two Wilfrid Laurier University students and executive members of [Laurier’s Centre for Women in Science](#) (WinS) will be attending an event to celebrate the first [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York City on Feb. 11. This historic occasion is part of an ongoing global effort to achieve gender equality in science and to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology.

“The establishment of this day acknowledges the fact that this issue is important,” said **Shohini Ghose**, associate professor in Laurier’s Physics and Computer Science program and director of Laurier’s Centre for Women in Science. “Gaining equal representation for women in the STEM fields is a global issue, not just a woman’s issue. We need to aim for global cultural change in the way we think in order to see social equality.”

Caroline Alpert, a fourth-year Kinesiology student and communications coordinator at WinS, and **Eden Hennessey**, a doctoral candidate in Social Psychology and manager of the student executive team at WinS, will both be attending the event at the UN Headquarters.

“I couldn’t have been more excited to be chosen to go to this event and represent Laurier and Canada as a proud female in science,” said Alpert. “In my family, I’m the fourth generation of women to pursue a career and education in the sciences, so I have a very strong support system. Learning about the challenges women still face inspired me to take action.”

Hennessey studies the experience of female scientists and is the creator of the [#DistractinglySexist: Confronting Sexism in Canada’s Tech Triangle](#) photography exhibit held last September at the Laurier Library. She is looking forward to meeting fellow researchers, policy makers and advocates to discuss her research.

“I strive to understand the role of sexism in Waterloo’s designations of Canada’s Silicon Valley and worst city for women,” said Hennessey. “I hope that in attending this conference I can engage in meaningful discussions about the future of equality in science and how WinS can be involved.”

WinS will celebrate the occasion with special commemorative posters. The centre invites the Laurier community to [print or share the posters](#) on social media and show their support of women in science with the hashtags **#WinS**, **#ParityinScience** and **#DayofWomeninScience**.

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About Laurier's Centre for Women in Science

Laurier's Centre for Women in Science (WinS) promotes the participation of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The centre seeks to strengthen science and technology research in Canada, support and celebrate women's contributions to the sciences and mathematical social sciences and address challenges women still face in higher education and careers in science. Membership is open to all at Laurier and partner institutions who are interested in participating in research and/or activities that promote women in the sciences and mathematical social sciences.

For more information go to wlu.ca/wins.

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