

Convocation to honour U of G physics pioneer

Published on Jun 02, 2009

A professor, a former U of G Board of Governors chair and several top students will be honoured during the summer convocation ceremonies next week.

JOHN BELL AWARD

The John Bell Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to university education, will be presented to Prof. Ernie McFarland, a member of the Department of Physics since 1974. He is being honoured for making important contributions to course and curriculum development, for being a pioneer in physics education research, and for being a mentor to many graduate students and faculty, a news release said.

LINCOLN ALEXANDER MEDAL

Former Board of Governors chair Michael Walsh will receive the Lincoln Alexander Medal of Distinguished Service. It honours an individual who has played a pivotal role in the functioning of U of G and who has influenced the quality of academic life.

After earning three U of G degrees, Walsh became a successful investment banker and business consultant. He joined Board of Governors in 1996, serving as vice-chair from 1999 to 2003 and as chair from 2003-05. Walsh and his wife, Virginia Trimble Walsh, are also principal donors to the university and are members of the Presidents' Legacy Council for lifetime giving.

WINEGARD MEDAL

The W. C. Winegard Medal, U of G's top undergraduate convocation award, will be presented to Melanie Wills, who is graduating with a B. Sc. in molecular and cellular biology. Named for former U of G president Bill Winegard, the award recognizes both academic achievement and contributions to campus and community life.

As an undergraduate, Wills made a breakthrough discovery related to protein in brain tumours that resulted in her research being published. She has also been a driving force behind the Sharpcuts Guelph Indie Film and Music Festival and is founder of an independent photography and film production house, the release said.

FORSTER MEDAL

The Forster Medal, U of G's top convocation award for graduate students, goes to Jennifer Ball, who is graduating with a PhD from the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. The award is named for the late Donald Forster, a former president of U of G, and recognizes academic achievement, motivation, leadership and citizenship.

Ball hopes to continue her research on the role of spirituality in women's peace building in Uganda, the release said. She has already written a book titled *Doing Democracy With Circles*, has published numerous journal articles and conference papers, and has presented at more than 25 conferences.

GOVERNOR GENERAL AWARDS

U of G will also present three Governor General's Awards – awards created in 1873 by Lord Dufferin, Canada's third governor general, to recognize academic excellence.

Winner of the gold medal, which honours achievement at the master's level, is master of fine arts candidate Joel Herman.

Silver medals will go to Wills, who finished her undergraduate career with six final grades of 100 per cent, and Emily Santander, a biological sciences student who is graduating with a 97 per cent average.

Winner of the bronze medal, which goes to the Ontario Agricultural College diploma student with the top marks, is Lisa Lee Anne Jones, who notched an average of 92.7%.

This year's winner of the Walter Vaughan Medal is history student Christi Garneau-Scott. Named for a former secretary of the U of G Senate, the medal recognizes the contributions of a student member of Senate.

*Guelph*TRIBUNE
.ca



© Copyright 2008 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. The reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of any material from this Metroland West Media Group website is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

