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Laurier orientation to focus more attention on academic components, gender relations issues

Wilfrid Laurier University's orientation week for first-year students has been revised to strengthen both its academic components and those addressing gender relations issues.

Most of this year's 1,550 first-year students will participate in Tour de Laurier, which runs from Labor Day, Sept. 3 to Sunday, Sept. 9. Classes begin Sept. 10.

The keynote address of orientation's general assembly on Labor Day will focus on the fourth "R" of education -- responsibility. Speaker Don Morgenson, a professor of psychology at Laurier since 1960 and recipient of the university's Outstanding Teacher Award in 1988, will also discuss peer pressure.

The academic components will include student meetings with deans and faculty members; departmental information sessions; seminars on study strategies for first-year students, student awards, and career planning; meetings for both mature students and part-time students; and tours of the campus and the library in particular.

On Thursday afternoon, students will be able to have a

hands-on introduction to electronic music, the fine arts, music therapy, and the stock market. There will also be entertaining presentations on mathematics and computing.

Addressing gender relations issues will be:

- * faculty and student discussions of sexual assault and date rape, and campus violence and gender relations;

- * the distribution of a 68-page booklet, entitled "Avoiding Rape On and Off Campus", to each of the university's 863 residence rooms;

- * and a drama presentation on AIDs, sexual assault, and peer pressure and virginity. Entitled "30 Seconds for Sex", the play is about four advertising agents who are creating commercials to promote awareness of sexual issues. Lisa Price, a Laurier student, is writer and director.

Other events will include bus tours of Kitchener-Waterloo and a formal reception, art display, and concert on the Sunday evening.