

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Contacts: Julia Ann Easley
WLU Information Officer
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070
Rachel Thorab/Sterling Wharton
Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago
(809) 623-4291

April 7, 1994
22-1994

57 students from Trinidad and Tobago to attend WLU convocation

Waterloo, Ont. (April 7) — About 57 part-time students from Trinidad and Tobago are expected to attend Wilfrid Laurier University's convocation ceremonies May 27 and 28 where they will receive diplomas in business administration.

They will be accompanied from Trinidad and Tobago by 26 guests, 14 dignitaries, and representatives of the Samaroo Jets Steel Orchestra, who will play at the convocation ceremony and other weekend events.

The Trinidad and Tobago students will receive their diplomas at a ceremony beginning at 1:15 p.m. on Friday, May 27. About 1,575 graduands will receive degrees and diplomas over the two days. For the first time, the ceremonies will be held in the Mutual Arena at the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

Dame Nita Barrow, Governor General of Barbados, will address the May 27 convocation. Both she and Rita Cox, a Toronto librarian and native of Trinidad and Tobago, will receive honorary doctor of letters degrees at the same ceremony.

Laurier began offering courses towards its popular diploma in business administration in Port of Spain in April 1992. A second class was mounted in San Fernando after the first 40 places filled quickly and 150 names were put on a waiting list.

"Laurier is committed to expanding its role and service in the international community," says Lorna Marsden, president of the university. "We are delighted with the results of this project and the success of each student. We look forward to welcoming them to campus and the Laurier family of alumni."

(MORE)

The project — believed to be the first such venture in the Caribbean and Latin America by a Canadian university — is a joint venture with ROYTEC. A subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, ROYTEC offers professional training programs, business education, consulting services, and publications.

"ROYTEC is extremely honored and pleased to be involved with Laurier in this program," says Hubert Alleyne, president of ROYTEC. "Our students have enjoyed their work and have benefited immensely. They will make outstanding contributions to Trinidad and Tobago in the years ahead. We look forward to continuing and deepening our relationship with Laurier in the future."

WLU's diploma program, offered in Canada since 1969, is designed to help people with work experience in business or government enhance their skills in the functional areas of administration. A total of 2,964 people have earned the diploma.

Seven professors from Laurier taught eight courses in Trinidad and Tobago; another four courses were offered through Laurier's video distance education program.

There are about five students from Trinidad and Tobago studying full-time at WLU.

With about 5,550 full-time and 2,900 part-time students, Wilfrid Laurier University is one of Canada's select universities. It offers undergraduate programs in business and economics, music, and arts and science; it has doctoral programs in social work and geography and nine programs at the master's level, including Canada's only 12-month master of business administration program .

Wilfrid Laurier University



Founded 1911

Graduation of Students from Trinidad and Tobago **A Fact Sheet**

In GENERAL

- Laurier began offering courses toward its Diploma in Business Administration in Port of Spain April 1992
- the project is a joint venture with ROYTEC, a subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago
- it is believed to be the first such venture in the Caribbean and Latin America by a Canadian university
- a second class was mounted in San Fernando after the first 40 places filled quickly and 150 names were put on a waiting list
- a total of 73 students are currently enrolled; 57 are expected to graduate on Friday, May 27

CONVOCATION

- about 57 students, 26 guests, and 14 dignitaries from Trinidad and Tobago will attend convocation May 27
- about 40 of the students' relatives living in Canada are expected to attend the ceremony
- the students are scheduled to arrive by plane the evening of May 26 and depart the morning of May 29
- the ceremony itself will take place at 1:15 p.m. in the Mutual Arena at the Waterloo Recreation Complex
- representatives of the Samaroo Jets Steel Orchestra from Trinidad and Tobago will play at convocation
- the Trinidad and Tobago group will also attend receptions and sightsee in Niagara Falls and Toronto

The DIPLOMA and COURSES

- the diploma is designed to help people with work experience in business or government enhance their skills in the functional areas of administration
- 12 half-credit courses were offered: eight were taught on site, four through video distance education
- courses covered the areas of operations, organizational behavior, finance, accounting, marketing, and policy
- the six-week courses were offered one at a time on an accelerated basis; the final course finishes in April

FACULTY and TEACHING

- seven WLU faculty members taught in Trinidad and Tobago: Frank Anatol, Cliff Bilyea, Gene Deszca, Doug McCready, Franklin Ramsoomair, Howard Teall, and Valter Viola
- faculty wrote and used case studies based on Trinidad and Tobago business, especially the oil industry

The STUDENTS

- most students are employees of the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, National Gas Company, IBM, Kaleidoscope Paints Ltd., and Dansteel Ltd.
- Karen Robertson, manager: administration at Royal Merchant Bank and Finance Company Ltd., will give the valedictory address on behalf of her 56 classmates from Trinidad and Tobago

OUR PARTNER

- the Royal Bank Institute of Business and Technology (ROYTEC), was established as a subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago in 1987
- ROYTEC offers professional training programs, business education, consulting services, and publications
- the bank controls assets of \$4.5 billion (TT), and has 20 branches and 54 automated banking machines
- with Neal and Massy, the bank operates in the Eastern Caribbean as the Caribbean Banking Corp.

The DIPLOMA in CANADA

- WLU's Diploma in Business Administration, initially offered as an evening program beginning in 1969, was also offered as a full-time program beginning in 1972; it reverted to an evening program only in 1989
- a total of 2,964 people have earned WLU's Diploma in Business Administration

April 6, 1994

Office of Institutional Relations

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3C5 (519) 884-1970 Fax: (519) 886-9351