

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
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## **Academic conference to debate the ethics of dealing with the dead** *"Grave Concerns: The Ethics of the Dead" draws international participants to Brantford*

**For Immediate Release**

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BRANTFORD, Ont. – Speakers from four continents will converge on Brantford to debate ethical issues about the treatment of the dead when Laurier Brantford holds *Grave Concerns: The Ethics of the Dead*. This conference, the second in an annual interdisciplinary series, will run from November 29 to December 1, 2001.

*Grave Concerns* will include academics from such disciplines as archaeology, history, native studies, religion and culture, and philosophy. Participants will deliver papers on themes that include funerary practices, remembering the dead, death and cultural appropriation, and ethical principles. The program will also include case studies on the treatment of ancient skeletal remains.

"Rules for dealing with the dead are defined by a culture. In this relatively new multicultural world, with science in a race to understand all, it is inevitable that conflicts will arise," says conference organizer Gary Warrick. "We're pleased that the papers which have been submitted cover a wide range of issues and reflect the intention that this be an interdisciplinary conference whose goal is to explore the ethics of dealing with the dead."

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Keynote speakers for the conference are David Newhouse, chair of the native studies department at Trent University, and James Chatters, founder of applied paleoscience and the central figure in the controversy surrounding Kennewick man.

The conference is open to academics, professionals in related fields and to the general public. Registration is \$75 and \$10 for students.

To register, please contact Laurier Brantford's Sue Mestekemper at (519) 756-8228 ext. 5700 or e-mail [smesteke@wlu.ca](mailto:smesteke@wlu.ca). For more information on the conference, please visit <http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwbrant/pages/conference> or contact Gary Warrick or Holly Cox.

Wilfrid Laurier's Brantford campus opened its doors to students in September of 1999. The campus' core program, contemporary studies, takes a team-taught, interdisciplinary look at the issues and events that shape our world. The campus provides a unique experience for students with its extremely small class sizes and exciting core curriculum.