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Richard K. Taylor
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SPECIAL TO The Waterloo Chronicle

More than 6,000 attend

Laurier spring convocation

More than 6,000 parents and friends filled the Kitchener Auditorium Sunday, with many standing, as a record 960 students received graduate and undergraduate degrees in Wilfrid Laurier University's spring convocation.

Among those receiving degrees were the first graduates in the university's honors science program in computing and computer electronics.

An honorary doctor of laws degree was conferred upon Norman Wagner, now president of the University of Calgary and a former dean of graduate studies and research at Laurier.

In his address to the students Dr. Wagner paid tribute to Laurier as an institution that had "challenged the accepted" in a variety of important ways.

It had remained relatively small when others grew as rapidly and grandly as possible, he said, and had dared to maintain a strong arts and science tradition while balancing it with a number of professional and applied programs. It also continued to balance its budget while other institutions were embarrassed by deficits.

The university's extension programs, now offered via television, its exciting athletic program and its commitment to community involvement are all examples of how this university has fought off the temptation to be just like everyone else, he said. "Laurier has always been a bit different and a bit special."

Added Dr. Wagner, "Perhaps this institution, by its very being, has demonstrated to all, especially its students, that it is possible to be different and yet not to be mediocre."

Presiding at the convocation ceremony was the Hon. John Aird, lieutenant-governor of Ontario and chancellor of the university.

Following the ceremony, students and faculty attended an out-door reception on campus, hosted by John A. Weir, president of Laurier.