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WLU president to fly to Germany
to sign student exchange agreement

John A. Weir, president of Wilfrid Laurier University, and others from Laurier, will fly to Germany early in December to sign a student exchange agreement with the oldest Protestant university in West Germany, the Philipps-Universität at Marburg.

The agreement, to be signed Dec. 13, will lead initially to four students from each university crossing the Atlantic next September to spend an academic year at the opposite university. The four from Laurier, who must be able to understand German, will be selected by April.

Also flying to Germany will be Alfred Hecht, professor of geography; Edward Bennett, professor of psychology; and Sandra Woolfrey, director of WLU Press.

Both Dr. Hecht and Dr. Bennett will be presenting papers at an international symposium on Ethnocentricity in Canada and the Western World at the German university while they are in Marburg. They will attend the official signing ceremony.

It was Dr. Hecht, on a sabbatical at the university in 1979-1980, who first began conversations with Walter Kroell, president of the Philipps-Universität, which led to the exchange agreement.

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It is expected that the agreement between Laurier and Philipps will lead to faculty exchanges and the sharing of a variety of research projects. Both graduate and undergraduate students from any area of study are eligible to take part in the exchanges.

Dr. Weir will present a copy of the atlas of Ontario maps co-authored by Grant Head of the Geography department to the president of the German university. The atlas was a 10-year project. A copy was presented by the province to the Queen this summer.

Following the signing, a reception for those attending will be hosted by the Canadian ambassador to West Germany.

Marburg is a city of 50,000, about the same size as the City of Waterloo. The university, with 16,000 students, was founded in the 16th century.