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Lt.-Gov. Aird presides at his final
convocation for Laurier graduates

In a talk to graduating students of Wilfrid Laurier University on Sunday, Lieut.-Gov. Aird stressed the importance of family and belief in one's self if the graduates are to have a successful life.

It was the last appearance at convocation for the lieutenant governor since he has completed two four-year terms at the university. Later this year he will step down, too, as Her Majesty's representative in the province.

"It may sound old-fashioned to say you are now full-fledged members of the Wilfrid Laurier University family," Aird told the graduating class of more than 900 at the university's spring convocation in the Kitchener Auditorium.

"That, in itself, should give you something to think about because the family, in its various forms, has always been the foundation and the fortress of our civilization."

He added that neither intellectual growth nor social order can be maintained unless the kinship tie, represented by the family, is strong.

"By providing cohesion and continuity, the family is the nest from which our greatest creativity hatches. By recognizing the importance of duty, honor and commitment, the family remains the strongest moral force through which our social order is nurtured and maintained."

He urged the graduates to have realistic self-esteem since "one's opinion of one's self is a vital asset," in a successful life.

"There is nothing more important than to really know oneself and to live up to the best of one's abilities. Others will believe in you only to the extent that you believe in yourself.

"So let your every thought and act reflect the kind of person you would like to be. That is the secret of a happy, worthwhile life."

Two honorary doctor of laws degrees were conferred by the chancellor. One was awarded to Elmer Iseler, conductor of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and the second posthumously to J.C. Phillips, chairman of Gulf Canada Ltd., of Toronto.

Iseler had been encouraged to undertake a career in music when he was a student at the university in the 1940s, and Phillips led the university's fund-raising drive, Excellence in the Eighties, which is nearing its \$6.2 million goal

In a musical tribute, Iseler led the Elmer Iseler Singers, the nucleus of his larger choir, in a brief program.

Following convocation, graduates and their families attended a reception on campus, hosted by John A. Weir, Laurier's president.