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Richard K. Taylor  
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Editors: This can be used as a sidebar  
to convocation story.

First class of music therapists  
set to graduate from Laurier

The first graduating students in Wilfrid Laurier University's new music therapy program will receive their degrees at spring convocation, May 29 at 2:15 p.m. at the Kitchener Auditorium.

Receiving the honors bachelor of music therapy degree will be Noreen Kirwin of Chatham, Carole Koenig of Waterloo, Lei Ann Oulette of Sudbury, Carolyn Arnason of Kitchener, Shelley Conliffe of Thamesville, Jennifer James of Vancouver, and Laurie Carleton of Mississauga.

They have completed four years of study, which has included four placements to gain practical experience. They all now plan to embark on a six-month internship term necessary to become accredited by the Canadian Association for Music Therapy.

"They are the pioneering class of a pioneering venture in Canada," said Dr. Rosemary Fischer, who came here two years ago to launch the country's first four-year degree program in music therapy. "Together, we have built this thing from scratch."

She added that the graduates are all professional musicians first, something that she feels is an important part of the Laurier program.

Placements for the first class took place at seven different places and each student had the opportunity to participate at four of them.

They were the School for the Blind in Brantford, St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener, Rosemount School for the Trainable Retarded in Kitchener, Lutherwood, a centre for adolescents at RR 3, Waterloo, the Oxford Regional Centre in Woodstock, the K-W Services for physically disabled adults, and the Pinehaven Nursing Home, Waterloo.

The students also founded a strong group-- the Music Therapy Students Association-- with Noreen Kirwin, as president.