

Wilfrid Laurier University



Contact: Julia Ann Easley
WLU Information Officer
(519) 884-1970 ext. 2070

May 8, 1991
026-1991

Laurier to split spring convocation into two ceremonies

Honorary degrees will be awarded to Raffi Armenian, Rudy Wiebe, and Willi Nassau at Wilfrid Laurier University's spring convocation ceremonies at the Kitchener auditorium on Saturday, June 1.

A total of more than 1,300 graduands will receive degrees and diplomas at the annual spring convocation, which for the first time will be split into two ceremonies to accommodate a growing number of graduates and their guests.

Music director of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra since 1971, Armenian has built the orchestra from a mainly amateur group to a fully professional ensemble. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Canadian Chamber Ensemble, which has toured internationally and won awards for its recordings. Armenian will address the graduands at the morning ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m.

Wiebe, a professor of Canadian literature and creative writing at the University of Alberta, is an award-winning author. In 1973 he won the Governor General's Award for fiction for his novel The Temptations of Big Bear. In 1987 the Royal Society of Canada recognized his contribution to Canadian literature by

presenting him with the Lorne Pierce Gold Medal. His latest book, published in 1989, is Playing Dead: A Contemplation Concerning the Arctic. Wiebe will address the graduands at the 2:30 p.m. ceremony.

Director of the audio-visual department at Laurier from 1969 to 1988, Nassau has made outstanding contributions to audio-visual displays at museums in Canada and the United States. They include the Corning Museum in Corning, New York; the Seagram Museum in Waterloo; and the Drumheller Museum in Drumheller, Alberta. He is currently working on a museum display interpreting the Rideau Canal. Nassau will receive his honorary degree at the 2:30 p.m. ceremony.

- 30 -

Note: The honorary degree recipients will be in the robing room (directly above the lobby of the auditorium) immediately before and after their respective ceremonies.