

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



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**Dr. Mary Ann Fieldes**  
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### **Biology professor appointed as first assistant dean (science)**

Mary Ann Fieldes, a professor of biology, has been appointed to the newly created position of assistant dean (science) in the faculty of arts and science at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. The appointment is effective from Jan. 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993.

Fieldes, who joined Laurier in 1983, will assist with the administration and promotion of science programs; the promotion of research activities; planning for a new academic building; and curriculum development. She will also be responsible for PROWIS, Laurier's annual conference to encourage more young women from area high schools to pursue advanced studies and careers in science.

Art Read, dean of the faculty of arts and science, says the position has been created as part of an effort to enhance science and increase its visibility at Laurier.

"Canada needs to energize its interest in science education," he says. "For an industrial nation, the country has a poor record in science education, and research and development. We've been relying on other countries for too long without pulling our weight in research and development."

**(More)**

Read says he is pleased to have Fieldes in the new post. "She is an outstanding researcher and has provided leadership in a variety of ways. She'll make an excellent role model."

The biology professor will continue to teach with a reduced course load and to pursue research on the genetics and properties of flax enzymes. An active scholar who has had 34 articles published, Fieldes has received funding support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council since 1985.

She has served on the board of governors since 1990, the executive committee of the faculty association, and a number of other university committees.

Fieldes joined the university in 1983 as an assistant professor and achieved the rank of full professor in 1989. She earned a doctorate in biology - genetics from McGill University in 1974 and a bachelor of science degree in botany and chemistry from Victoria University in New Zealand in 1965.

There are 305 students majoring in science at Laurier. The university offers science programs in biology, chemistry, physics, computing and computer electronics, psychology, geography, and mathematics.