

# NEWS RELEASE

**Wilfrid Laurier  
University**



## **Seven honorary degrees to be awarded at Laurier convocation** *Pamela Wallin and Marnie McBean among those joining 1250 university graduates*

**For Immediate Release**

*May 27, 1999*  
**42-99**

**Contact: Dr. Robert Rosehart**  
**President and Vice-Chancellor**  
**(519) 884-0710 ext. 2250**

**Michael Strickland**  
**Media Relations Officer**  
**(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070**

WATERLOO – A noted Canadian broadcaster and an Olympian with multiple medals will be among the seven honorary degree recipients at Wilfrid Laurier University's spring convocation. Laurier will award the honorary degrees – along with almost 1250 earned degrees – during convocation ceremonies in the Waterloo Recreation Complex at 1:30 p.m. on June 4 and 5.

Broadcaster Pamela Wallin will receive a Doctorate of Literature on Friday and will address the 480 graduates in business administration, economics, music, social work and programs of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Robert Dye, president and CEO of the Society of Management Accountants (SMA) of Canada, and Paul Giannelia, a Laurier graduate whose company built the Confederation Bridge, will receive honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) degrees.

On Saturday, Olympic rower Marnie McBean will receive an LLD and will address the 770 graduates in arts and science programs. Canadian arms verification expert Frank Ronald Cleminson and two representatives of Philipps-Universitat of Marburg, Germany – Dr. Werner Schaal and Dr. Werner von Bredow – will also receive LLDs.

"We're very excited to be recognizing such successful and diverse honourees," said Laurier president Bob Rosehart. "Each of them was chosen because they reflect the quality and caliber of the university and of Laurier students."

– more –

**Pamela Wallin** began working with the CBC in 1975. She has worked for or hosted numerous programs, including CBC's *Sunday Morning*, *As It Happens*, and *Prime Time News*; CTV's *Canada AM*; and *Pamela Wallin Live*. She has won numerous awards for her media work, is vice-chair of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television in the Ontario, and sits on the board of directors of the Public Policy Forum.

As part of a rowing duo with Kathleen Heddle, **Marnie McBean** won three gold medals and a bronze at the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games. She is the first woman to win a medal in six different categories at the Olympics and world rowing championships. She is also active with Kids Help Phone, a toll-free national counselling service for children and youth.

**Bob Dye** received his CMA designation in 1965 and was appointed executive director of the Society of Management Accountants of Ontario in 1982. In 1997 he was named president and chief executive officer of the SMA of Canada. Dye has been actively involved with Laurier's SBE Dean's Advisory Committee and the 1995-96 SBE Dean Search Committee.

**Paul Giannelia** graduated from Waterloo Lutheran University in 1970 with a degree in economics and has been in the construction industry ever since. His companies have built bridges, tunnels, viaducts, dams and buildings throughout North America, including the Confederation Bridge between PEI and New Brunswick.

**Ron Cleminson** is a retired lieutenant colonel with the Canadian Armed Forces. He was a member of UNSCOM, the UN Special Commission on weapons inspection, and his work in disarmament has gained Canada worldwide recognition. He is also a strong supporter of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies. In 1995 he was awarded the Minister's Award for Foreign Policy Excellence and in 1996 he was presented with the Canadian Government's Treasury Board Interdepartmental Award of Excellence.

**Werner Schaal** received his doctorate in mathematics in 1961 and has been president of Philipps-Universität since 1994. He has systematically developed links to foreign universities, including Laurier which has had a student/faculty exchange program with Philipps for 15 years.

**Wilfrid von Bredow** is a former vice-president of Philipps-Universität and is the current academic advisor to the exchange program. He has taught political science in Europe and North America, and in 1994 was awarded the Diefenbaker Award by the Canada Council. He is currently vice-president of the Association of Canada-Studies in the German Speaking Countries.