

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier awards 570 degrees at fall convocation on Sunday

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WATERLOO – A total of 570 degrees will be awarded at Laurier's Fall Convocation on October 25 – 155 in Arts and Science, 207 in Business Administration, 11 in Honours Economics, 10 in Music, 45 Masters of Arts and Masters of Environmental Studies, 102 MBAs, 31 Master's of Social Work and nine from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

The Governor General's Academic Gold Medal will be presented to Anthony Weis, who is graduating with a Masters of Environmental Science in Geography degree. The Waterloo native will also receive a Graduate Gold Medal as top student in an MA program.

The Graduate Gold Medal winners for other programs are: Roger Tong (Business and Economics), Katherine Marlene Skipper (Social Work) and Christopher Stephen Beausoleil (Seminary).

Undergraduate Alumni Gold Medal winners are: Bradley Dunkley (Bachelor of Business Administration), Jonathan Warren (Economics), Frederic Jean Julien (Music) and Sterling Lynch (Philosophy and Religion and Culture).

Two entrepreneurs and a retired history professor will also receive honorary degrees at Convocation. Bob Schlegel, Myrna Schlegel and Bruce W. Hodgins will receive Doctor of Laws degrees.

Bob Schlegel was raised on a farm in the New Hamburg area and graduated from Waterloo Lutheran University with a degree in Economics in 1972. He earned his Chartered Accountant's designation while working at Peat Marwick Mitchell (now KPMG) and then started the Kitchener accounting firm of Schlegel, Moore and Robertson.

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Myrna (Horst) Schlegel grew up in Baden and graduated from Toronto General Hospital as a Registered Nurse, and from specialized health administration programs at Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas. She married Bob in 1972 in the Keffer Memorial Chapel of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

The Schlegels operated two retirement nursing homes in Ontario, then moved to Texas, where they started one small retirement centre, which expanded over the years into a company with 13 facilities with 2,200 beds. The company was sold a few years ago, providing the funds to set up the Schlegel Horizon Foundation, a philanthropic organization that supports education, health care and the arts. Myrna Schlegel chairs the Foundation.

Bob Schlegel, meanwhile, co-founded Pavestone Co. in Dallas in 1980. The manufacturer of interlocking stones now has 10 factories and distributes its product through 30 states. He was named Ernst & Young's entrepreneur of the year in the southwestern United States this year.

The Schlegels donated \$2-million to Laurier this year. The donation will fund 50 percent of the cost of a new research and education centre, to be called The Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies.

Bruce Hodgins, a nationally and internationally renowned scholar of Native history, the North, federalism and environmental history retired from Trent University in 1996. The Kitchener native graduated from Waterloo College with a BA in History in 1953, received an MA from Queen's University and a PhD from Duke University.

Named Laurier's Alumnus of the Year in 1992, Hodgins has been a teacher in Prince Edward Island, a faculty member at the University of Western Ontario and was a professor of History at Trent from 1972 until his retirement.

Hodgins has won many awards over the years, and has been a leader in outdoor education, canoeing and youth camping. He has spent a lifetime devoted to Canada's river heritage, in particular those of the Temagami and Camp Wanapitei Co-ed camps.

Hodgins also started the Canadian-Australia university faculty exchange and was the first Visiting Professor of Canadian Studies at Macquarie University. With WLU friend and colleague Welf Heick (professor emeritus, History), Hodgins wrote a book that contrasted and compared Canadian and Australian federalism.

Convocation will be held at the Waterloo Recreation Complex at 2 p.m.