

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



**Laurier convocation marks graduation of more than 600 students**  
*Pulitzer-Prize-winning author and local business leader recognized with honorary degrees*

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact: Dr. John Metcalfe  
University Registrar  
(519) 884-0710, ext. 6092**

**or Michael Strickland  
Manager, Media Relations & Information  
(519) 884-0710, ext. 3070**

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will confer more than 500 degrees and diplomas in arts, business, music, science, social work and theology during convocation ceremonies at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 29 in the Waterloo Recreation Complex. The University will also recognize a world-renowned Canadian author and a local business leader with honorary degrees.

At least 645 students will graduate this fall with bachelor, master and doctoral degrees and diplomas in music, accounting and business administration. This number includes 439 undergraduate and 206 graduate students. Around 80 per cent of students who graduate also attend convocation and this is the largest fall-term graduating class in Laurier's history.

"No matter what the size of the graduating class, seeing students put the final touches on their university education is always exciting," says university registrar John Metcalfe. "Students work very hard while they're here and finally receiving a diploma or degree can bring a great deal of personal satisfaction – both for the students and for their families."

During the ceremony, a posthumous degree will be awarded to Tyson Downing Murray, who passed away this summer from skin cancer. The 23-year-old student was enrolled in fourth year of the computing and computer electronics program and had earned enough credits for a general degree in computing.

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Honorary degrees will be granted to Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Carol Shields and to local business leader and volunteer Betty Sims. Shields' daughter Meg will accept an honorary doctor of letters degree and address convocation on her mother's behalf Sims will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree and will also address convocation.

Economics professor Pierre Siklos will be recognized as Laurier's University Research Professor for 2000. He is currently working on a book on central banking policies as part of his award. A prolific researcher who has taught at Laurier since 1980, Siklos brings an international reputation to Laurier's School of Business and Economics.