

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Laurier Brantford grants first honorary degree at first convocation** *Dr. James Hillier will receive doctor of laws degree for co-inventing electron microscope*

**For Immediate Release**

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BRANTFORD – The Brantford campus of Wilfrid Laurier University will bestow its first honorary degree on the co-inventor of one of science’s most significant achievements – the electron microscope. James Hillier will receive an honorary doctor of laws and briefly address the graduating class during Laurier Brantford’s first convocation ceremony on May 29.

“Dr. Hillier is a renowned scientist, inventor and philanthropist,” explains Leo Groarke, dean of Laurier Brantford. “His connection to Brantford and his generous support of youth in their pursuit of higher education make him a worthy recipient of our highest honour.”

Born in Brantford, Hillier co-invented the electron microscope, used in hospitals, universities and research centres around the world. He earned a PhD in physics from the University of Toronto before moving to the United States. He spent most of his career at RCA Laboratories, retiring as senior scientist and executive vice-president in 1978.

Hillier has contributed greatly to the James Hillier Foundation, which provides scholarships to students at seven Brant County schools. As a student, he received scholarships and would otherwise not have been able to attend university. The foundation supports 10 science students in their pursuit of university education with \$5,000 annually.

Hillier will receive the degree during Laurier Brantford’s first convocation. The ceremony for the campus’s first 12 graduates begins at 6 p.m. in Central Presbyterian Church.

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– Hillier degree / 2 –

Wilfrid Laurier University awards honorary doctor of laws, doctor of letters, doctor of science or doctor of divinity degrees to recognize contributions of outstanding scholarly, creative or professional achievement, or distinguished public and community service.

The university will also award five such degrees during spring convocation in Waterloo. World-renowned heldentenor Paul Frey will receive a doctor of letters and New Brunswick provincial court judge Graydon Nicholas will receive a doctor of laws on June 7. On June 8, Laurier will also present a doctor of laws to Thomas d’Aquino, president and chief executive of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, and to philanthropists Ross and Doris Dixon.

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