

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Convocation ceremonies mark success of over 1400 Laurier students** *Five to receive honorary degrees at the largest spring convocation in Laurier history*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will bestow just over 1,400 degrees and diplomas during the largest spring convocation ceremony in the university's history. By 4 p.m. yesterday, 1,407 students had completed their program requirements and qualified to graduate during ceremonies that begin at 1:15 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.

"Convocation is the defining moment of success for students who have worked for years at Laurier," explains Laurier registrar John Metcalfe. "Most students work very hard to excel academically and the conferring of the diploma or degree marks the end of their university lives. It's a proud moment - both for them and for their families."

On Friday, the university will confer degrees or diplomas on 734 undergraduate or graduate students from the faculties of arts, music and social work, as well as Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Laurier will confer one diploma in theology, 619 bachelor's degrees, 111 master's degrees and three PhD's.

Early in the ceremony, The Honourable Graydon Nicholas will receive an honorary doctor of laws and Paul Frey will receive an honorary doctor of letters. Both recipients will address the graduating class. Laurier will then present the annual award for teaching excellence to history professor Cynthia Comacchio.

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On Saturday, the university will confer degrees on 673 undergraduate and graduate students from the faculty of science and the school of business and economics. Laurier will confer 42 diplomas, 591 bachelor's degrees and 40 master's degrees.

The university will also bestow honorary doctor of laws degrees on Thomas d'Aquino and Ross and Doris Dixon. Early in the ceremony, d'Aquino will address the graduating class.

The spring graduating class has grown by just over 100 since last year, when 1,298 students graduated. In recent years, 75 to 80 per cent of eligible graduates have attended convocation ceremonies.