

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Laurier hosts largest convocation ceremony in its history

Buzz Hargrove, Jean-Michel Lacroix and Alex Mustakas to receive honorary degrees

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WATERLOO – More than 1,500 graduands are preparing to mark the end of their successful university efforts as Wilfrid Laurier University hosts the largest convocation in its history. By 4 p.m. yesterday, 1,557 students had met all the criteria required to receive their degrees or diplomas during one of three ceremonies being held today and tomorrow at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.

“Convocation is a wonderful moment for the students, and for the friends and families who come to see them cross the stage,” said Laurier registrar, John Metcalfe. “It represents the successful completion of a tremendous undertaking and the beginning of a new phase in the lives of our students.”

On Thursday afternoon, the university will bestow 750 degrees on undergraduate and graduate students from the faculties of arts and graduate studies. Laurier will confer 715 bachelor’s degrees, 34 master’s degrees and one doctorate.

Early in the ceremony, which begins at 1:15 p.m., Jean-Michel Lacroix, rector-chancellor of l’Académie d’Aix-Marseilles in France, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree. Lacroix is being recognized for his work in promoting Canadian studies in France and throughout Europe. He will deliver a brief address to the graduating class.

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Laurier will also present Carol Duncan, an assistant professor in the department of religion and culture, with the annual WLU Award for Teaching Excellence for Full-time Faculty.

During the Friday morning ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m., the university will confer degrees or diplomas on 356 undergraduate and graduate students from the faculty of graduate studies and the school of business and economics. Laurier will confer 30 diplomas, 280 bachelor's degrees and 46 master's degrees.

During the ceremony, Laurier will bestow an honorary doctor of laws degree on Buzz Hargrove, national president of the CAW. He will address the graduates.

In the Friday afternoon ceremony, which begins at 2 p.m., Laurier will confer 451 undergraduate and graduate degrees on students from the faculties of graduate studies, music, science and social work, as well as the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Laurier will confer six diplomas, 366 bachelor's degrees, 77 master's degrees and two doctorates.

Laurier will recognize Alex Mustakas, artistic director and CEO of Drayton Entertainment, with an honorary doctor of letters degree. Mustakas will address the graduates shortly after the ceremony begins.

Laurier will also present Richard Ennis, from the psychology department, with the annual WLU Award for Teaching Excellence for Part-time Contract Academic Staff.