

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Four exemplary individuals honoured during spring convocation**

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – A military historian with long ties to Wilfrid Laurier University; an international adventurer, motivational speaker and photographer; a distinguished concert pianist and a mental-health counsellor turned award-winning children’s author will receive honorary degrees at four convocation ceremonies held by Laurier this spring.

“The people selected for this honour have all distinguished themselves in very different walks of life,” said Bob Rosehart, Laurier president and vice-chancellor. “All are models of how people can live life and make a significant contribution to society, and we are pleased that they can offer words of inspiration as our students embark on the next phase of their lives.”

Terry Copp, a noted military historian and recently retired faculty member at Laurier, will receive an honorary doctor of laws during the convocation ceremony for students in the faculty of arts on Thursday, June 2. He will deliver a brief address to the graduands shortly after the ceremony begins at 1:15 p.m. in the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.

Copp is being recognized for his work as a teacher and researcher, along with his active involvement in the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies. Over his long career, Copp has worked tirelessly to ensure that the contributions of Canadian soldiers and veterans are not forgotten.

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Carl Hiebert, a motivational speaker and self-described entrepreneur of life, will receive an honorary doctor of laws during the ceremony for students in the Laurier school of business and economics on Friday, June 3. He will deliver a brief address shortly after the ceremony begins at 10 a.m. in the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.

Hiebert is being recognized for his inspirational messages of motivation and attitude, entrepreneurial spirit and devotion to many causes. Confined to a wheelchair since 1981, he opened his own flight school within two years and became Canada's first paraplegic flight instructor. He later achieved what many said was impossible by flying an open-cockpit ultralight aircraft 5,000 miles across the country. Hiebert's photography has appeared in national magazines in Canada and the U.S., and in his own books.

Pianist Anton Kuerti will receive an honorary doctor of letters during the ceremony for students in music, science, social work and the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary on Friday, June 3. He will deliver a short address early in the ceremony that begins at 2 p.m. at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.

Kuerti is being recognized for a distinguished performing career and his support of the arts across Canada. Born in Austria and raised in the United States, Kuerti has lived in Canada for more than 35 years. He has toured more than 40 countries and performed with most U.S. orchestras and conductors. His vast repertoire has includes some 50 concertos, including one he composed.

Deborah Ellis, an author and mental health counsellor, will receive an honorary doctor of letters during a ceremony for Brantford students on Wednesday, June 8. She will deliver a brief address early in the ceremony that begins at 3 p.m. at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts.

Born and raised in Paris, Ontario, Ellis works as a residential mental-health counsellor in Toronto. Her first novel for young teens, entitled *Looking at X*, was published in 1999 and won the 2000 Governor General's Award for Children's Text. Several months speaking with women and girls in Afghan refugee camps inspired her second novel, *The Breadwinner*, and prompted her to donate all royalties from it to support education projects for such refugees.