

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier appoints ‘serial entrepreneur’ to new position

Richard Wagner to spend one day a week offering expertise and advice on new ventures

For Immediate Release

**January 05, 2006
04-06**

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WATERLOO – A self-described ‘serial entrepreneur’ is returning to Laurier as the first entrepreneur-in-residence at the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship. Richard Wagner is volunteering in this position within the school of business and economics at Wilfrid Laurier University.

The entrepreneur-in-residence program is designed to provide students with access to the expertise required to successfully launch a new venture. Each term the entrepreneur will spend one day a week meeting with students in a confidential setting, discussing their aspirations and ideas for a new business.

“The ultimate goal is to enhance the students’ knowledge of entrepreneurship and increase their chances of launching a successful business,” said Steve Farlow, executive director of the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship. “Laurier students now have a unique and powerful opportunity to learn directly from an experienced successful entrepreneur.”

The entrepreneur-in-residence will chair the Schlegel Student Business Operators’ Association, which will promote and encourage the entrepreneurial development of Laurier students who operate a business. The SSBOA will offer peer-to-peer networking, regular meetings and guest speakers.

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As the centre's first entrepreneur-in-residence, Wagner brings a wealth of knowledge and experience owning and building successful businesses to the students and programs of Laurier's school of business and economics. He held senior positions with Deloitte and the Toronto Dominion Bank, before purchasing, turning around and selling an insolvent manufacturing company, Ultra Metal.

Wagner later joined Enviro-Care Kruncher Corporation as president and CEO, patenting and commercializing a waste-processing technology that led to installations around the world, including Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom. He more recently started a new venture, Giant Resource Recovery Aerosols Inc., which included a partnership with a multi-national cement company and the building of a new plant in the U.S. In 2005, after building this business to revenues in excess of \$4 million, he sold the company.

Wagner holds a bachelor of business administration degree from Laurier and an MBA from McMaster University. He is a certified management accountant.

Located within the school of business and economics at Wilfrid Laurier University, the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship exists to support student education in entrepreneurship. Through a range of outreach programs, the centre links students with the business community and facilitates the incubation of students' business ideas. To learn more about the centre, please visit www.wlu.ca/sbe/schlegel.