

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Convocations mark success of over 1,700 Laurier students**

*David Chilton, two academics and two former MPPs will receive honorary degrees*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will celebrate student achievement during five spring convocation ceremonies this Thursday and Friday in Waterloo, and next Wednesday in Brantford. By 10 a.m. today, Laurier students had completed the program requirements for 1,744 degrees and diplomas.

“Convocation is a proud moment for students, along with their family and friends, to recognize the achievement of successfully completing their university studies,” said Laurier Registrar John Metcalfe. “The ceremony marks the start of a new chapter in the graduands’ lives.”

On Thursday morning, the university will confer three doctorates and 172 master’s degrees on students from the faculty of graduate studies. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. in the Athletic Complex on the Laurier campus. Early in the ceremony, Alfred Pletsch of Philipps University in Marburg, Germany, will receive an honorary degree and will address the graduands.

In the Thursday afternoon ceremony, which begins at 1:15 p.m., Laurier will confer 814 undergraduate degrees on students from the faculty of arts. The ceremony will be held at the Waterloo Memorial Recreational Complex.

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During the ceremony, the university will recognize James Breithaupt, a former member of provincial parliament for Kitchener and chair of the Ontario Law Reform Commission from 1984 to 1989, with an honorary degree. He will address the graduands. Laurier will also present Catherine Black, a professor in the faculty of arts, with the annual award for teaching excellence for full-time faculty.

On Friday morning at 10 a.m., the university will confer 249 undergraduate degrees and 11 diplomas on students from the school of business and economics. The ceremony will be held at the Waterloo Memorial Recreational Complex. Early in the ceremony, David Chilton, Laurier alumnus and author of *The Wealthy Barber*, will receive an honorary degree and will address the graduands.

In a Friday afternoon ceremony, which begins at 2 p.m., Laurier will bestow 376 undergraduate degrees and one diploma on students from the faculties of music and science. The ceremony will be held in the Waterloo Memorial Recreational Complex. Donald Morgenson, a professor emeritus at Laurier, will be recognized early in the ceremony with an honorary degree and will address the graduands.

Next Wednesday, Laurier Brantford will confer 118 undergraduate degrees at its fifth convocation. The ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. in the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts. During the ceremony, Laurier will bestow an honorary degree on Robert Nixon, who served as Brant's member of provincial parliament for 42 years and was Ontario's treasurer from 1985 to 1990. He will address the graduands.

For more information on Laurier's convocation ceremonies, visit [www.wlu.ca](http://www.wlu.ca).