

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Three journalists among six recipients of honorary degrees from Laurier

For Immediate Release

**May 15, 2007
29/07**

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WATERLOO — Three journalists are among the six people who will receive honorary degrees at Laurier's spring convocation ceremonies June 6-13.

This year's convocation will involve the largest group of students ever to graduate from Laurier. About 40 percent more people than last year are receiving degrees as the first wave of the "double cohort" caused by the elimination of Grade 13 in Ontario passes through the undergraduate system. The additional numbers necessitated raising the number of convocation ceremonies to six this year from five last year.

The honorary degree recipients are:

□ Mike Duffy is Ottawa editor for CTV NewsNet and has been host of CTV's Sunday Edition for 11 years. He has won an ACTRA (the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists) award for live television reporting, has twice been nominated for the "Best in the Business" award by the Washington Journalism Review and has been named to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Duffy will receive an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the June 13 convocation at Laurier Brantford.

□ Fred Kuntz is editor-in-chief of the Toronto Star. His career includes five years as group publisher of Grand River Valley Newspapers, which includes The Record in Kitchener and the Guelph Mercury. He has served on the board of the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, the Rotary Club of Kitchener, and the Salvation Army Community Advisory Board of Waterloo Region. He will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the June 7 convocation for the School of Business and Economics.

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□ Geoffrey Stevens, whose career in journalism extends more than three decades, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the afternoon June 8 convocation for the Faculty of Arts. Stevens has been Ottawa correspondent for Time magazine, parliamentary correspondent, Queen's Park bureau chief, Ottawa columnist and associate editor, national editor, sports editor and managing editor of The Globe and Mail, and political columnist for the Toronto Star, Vancouver Sun and Montreal Gazette. He is currently an adjunct professor of political science at Laurier.

□ Dr. Gordon Greene was dean of Laurier's Faculty of Music from 1979 to 1989 and interim dean from 2005 to 2006. Over the course of his career, Greene received several Canada Council fellowships and seven research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to study French secular polyphonic music in European libraries. He has presented papers on medieval and renaissance topics in Canada, the U.S., Europe and Australia. He will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the June 7 convocation for the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Music.

□ The Hon. James K. Bartleman, a member of the Mnjikaning First Nation, is Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor. He previously had a distinguished career of more than 35 years in Canada's Foreign Service. Bartleman has worked tirelessly to encourage literacy among Aboriginal young people in the North, launching the Lieutenant-Governors Book Drive, literacy summer camps, and partnerships between Native and non-Native schools. He will be receiving an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the June 6 convocation for the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

□ Susan Burke has been manager/curator of the historic Joseph Schneider House in Kitchener since 1981. Under her guidance, the museum is now an official National Historic Site and offers 16 education programs to children from Waterloo Region and beyond. She is co-editor of the book *From Pennsylvania to Waterloo: Pennsylvania-German Folk Culture in Transition*, and has been honoured with many awards. Burke will receive an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the morning June 8 convocation for the Faculty of Arts.