

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire to speak at Laurier's Global Citizenship Conference

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WATERLOO — Lt.-Gen. (Ret.) Roméo Dallaire, who commanded the UN forces in Rwanda during the horrific violence of 1994, is coming to Wilfrid Laurier University Friday, March 7 to deliver the keynote speech at Laurier's Global Citizenship Conference.

Dallaire will be speaking at 7 p.m. in the Laurier Athletic Complex. His talk is open to students and the general public. Tickets are available at the Laurier Bookstore and online at <http://www.wlubookstore.com/gifts/tickets.htm>. Prices: \$5 (plus tax) for Laurier students who buy their tickets at the Laurier Bookstore, and \$15 (plus tax) for all others and for all online sales.

Dallaire was a senior Canadian military officer when he was named commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda in 1993. The central African country had recently emerged from civil war and the task of the UN mission was to implement the Arusha peace accords. However, extreme violence broke out in early 1994 and Dallaire and his relatively small peacekeeping force found themselves helpless to stop the ensuing massacre.

Dallaire documented the horrific story, including the failure of the international community to stop the genocide, in his book, *Shake Hands With the Devil*, which was recently made into a feature film.

"We feel that it is imperative that today's generations learn from such outstanding individuals as Mr. Dallaire," said Elizabeth Swanson, director of the Roméo Dallaire speaking event.

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Dallaire will be available for a short book-signing period immediately following the event. Books can be purchased in advance at the Laurier Bookstore.

The Laurier Global Citizenship Conference runs from March 7 to 9. It is a fun, insightful and interdisciplinary conference that focuses on the environment, trade, conflict, human rights and human development. For more information about the conference, visit: <http://www.gcclaurier.org>

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