

**For Immediate Release
April 20, 2009 | 40-09**

Laurier mourns the passing of first-year student David LaForest

WATERLOO — Wilfrid Laurier University extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of student David LaForest, who passed away Sunday evening as a result of injuries sustained in a fire April 14 at Waterloo College Hall residence.

David, 19, was a first-year economics student and a member of Laurier's varsity rugby team.

"This is a sad and difficult time for everyone who knew David. Our hearts go out to his family," said Laurier dean of students David McMurray, who was with the LaForest family Sunday night.

Laurier Counselling Services has been assisting residents of Waterloo College Hall since the fire, and will continue to offer its services to those members of the Laurier community who require them in the wake of this tragedy. A number of group debriefing sessions have been scheduled for today:

- 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., King Street Residence: group debriefing, intended primarily for those closest to David.
- 2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m., Bricker Residence: group debriefing for those also affected.
- 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Bricker Residence: for Waterloo College Hall residence dons.
- 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., Bricker Residence: drop-in for anyone affected.

The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office and Waterloo Regional Police are continuing their investigation into the Waterloo College Hall fire.

Details of a memorial service for David will be forthcoming.