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1911-2011 | Wilfrid Laurier University

For Immediate Release
Dec, 13, 2010 | 129-10

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Laurier professor explores family history in new book from WLU Press

WATERLOO – Laurier Professor Thomas O. Hueglin explores his family history in a new book from WLU Press titled, *We All Giggled: A Bourgeois Family Memoir*.

We All Giggled shares the intimate stories of two families that came together when Hueglin's parents met and married in 1945. The Hügglins, as they were known then, lost most of their fortune over the course of the two world wars. The Wachendorffs survived the wars despite their Jewish ancestry; the book features a photo of Hueglin's half-Jewish uncles with Adolf Hitler.

Hueglin wrote the book based on his own memories, but he also read family journals and diaries and spoke with his 91-year-old aunt in Germany. He recollects growing up in postwar Germany in an environment of stability and comfort, and chronicles his family's ups and downs and abiding love for music, food and art.

"When you put your mind to it, it's amazing what you remember," said Hueglin, who wrote the book for his children. "I just wanted to write down the old stories. What emerged was an entire family memoir, spanning several generations."

We All Giggled weaves a rich tapestry of anecdotes about opera singers, restaurants and travels, as well as family relations, romance and the kind of "impromptu reactions to people, places, and situations that often result in uncontrollable giggles," Hueglin wrote in the book.

"This book reminds us what the ideal family actually is: a collection of colourful, delightfully imperfect people who have, for better and worse, made up the music of our lives," said Alison Wearing, author of *Honeymoon in Purdah: An Iranian Journey*, in a review of the book. "May we all remember and honour our families with such care, respect, and willingness to giggle and forgive."

Hueglin grew up in Germany and moved to Canada in 1983. He has been a professor of political science at Wilfrid Laurier University since 1985. His recent book publications also include *Comparative Federalism* and *Classical Debates for the Twenty-first Century: Rethinking Political Thought*. He will be part of a Wilfrid Laurier University centennial event celebrating "Laurier Authors Past and Present" on Feb. 9, 2011.

We All Giggled is available now through WLU Press. For more information, visit www.wlupress.wlu.ca.