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CONTACT

Marc Kilgour, Chair of the Mathematics Department Wilfrid Laurier University 519-884-0710 ext. 4208 or mkilgour@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Director, Communications & Public Affairs Wilfrid Laurier University 519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

Laurier math professor elected president of prestigious Peace Science Society

WATERLOO – Laurier Mathematics Professor Marc Kilgour will play a key role in the Peace Science Society over the next year as its newly elected president – one of only a few Canadians to be elected to the post.

Kilgour, who is also the chair of the Mathematics department at Laurier and a faculty associate of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, has contributed to the field of peace and conflict studies through a large body of research focused on mathematical modeling of strategy in deterrence, escalation, power-sharing, arms control, peace operations, and counter-terrorism.

"Marc is a distinguished academic and someone who has given great service to Laurier in a wide variety of ways," said Paul Jessop, the dean of Science. "The breadth of his intellectual pursuits is quite remarkable, as demonstrated by this prestigious appointment to a position that one wouldn't expect to be filled by a math professor."

Kilgour, who has been a member of the Peace Science Society since 1998, plans to spend the next year on a few key projects for the society. His initiatives include bringing new people into the society and understanding the direction that research could take in the organization's future.

"I'm pleased that the society had sufficient faith in me and interest in what I have to say and my ideas that they entrusted me with this office for the year," said Kilgour. "I'm going to do my best to have some effect on the evolution of the society because I think its work is important."

The Peace Science Society, established in 1963, is an academic society that aims to encourage the scientific study of peace analysis and conflict management. Its main concern is the improvement of social science theory as it relates to international relations. It facilitates and provides a vehicle for discussion among members and others worldwide through conferences and meetings, and encourages and supports the publication of research.