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Bequest brings science labs to Laurier Brantford

BRANTFORD – Thanks to a \$2 million bequest from the estate of a local chemist, Laurier Brantford can now offer courses in biology and chemistry, as well as lab space for faculty and student research. In recognition, the William Nikolaus Martin labs will officially open on Tuesday, November 20 at 10 a.m.

“This generous gift has allowed us to broaden our program offerings into traditional science courses, and launch our new Bachelor of Arts and Science in Health Studies,” said John McCutcheon, acting dean at Laurier Brantford. “The labs allow for enhanced teaching and learning opportunities for our students, as well as research space for our faculty.”

Martin, who passed away in 2010, believed strongly in his community. Science was his passion throughout his education and career. In addition to the science labs at Laurier Brantford, \$1 million of the total gift was directed to establish the William Nikolaus Martin Science Scholarships for science graduate students at Laurier’s Waterloo campus.

“William Martin lived by the principle ‘learn all you can, work hard, and treat others like your brother,’ and his gift truly epitomizes that principle,” said Ann Brandt, associate director, development and alumni relations. “His generosity will allow generations to come to share in his love of science.”

Martin immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1956 with \$146. He worked for almost 30 years at the Shawinigan Water and Power Company, and later the Consolidated Bathurst at Grande Mere before moving to Brantford in 1984 and working at TwinPak until his retirement in 1991.

The opening event takes place Nov. 20 at the Laurier Brantford Research and Academic Centre, East Wing, 150 Dalhousie St. For further event information, please contact Penny Friesen 519-756-8228 ext. 5769 or pfriesen@wlu.ca

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