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## Elementary students experience university life with JUMP

WATERLOO – From wearing perception goggles and learning about the brain in a psychology class, to conducting polymer experiments in science and participating in an archaeological dig, more than 1,800 elementary school students will experience university life on Laurier's Waterloo campus as part of the Junior University Multidisciplinary Program (JUMP) in June.

Over the course of one to three days, while completing courses in athletics, archaeology, astronomy, communications, business, geography, music, science, psychology or theatre, students in Grades 5 to 8 explore new subjects, learn about post-secondary education and discover possible career paths. Outside of the classroom, students enjoy leadership activities, live and eat on campus, and bond with friends and teachers.

"JUMP is an interactive and fun experience for all students," said Susan MacKenzie, conference coordinator at Laurier. "Participants give JUMP rave reviews and teachers look forward to returning each year. Students complete a variety of academic courses and activities and are encouraged to begin thinking about post-secondary education. Many departments on campus are involved in welcoming JUMP students and ensuring the program is a success."

To date, more than 25,000 students from across Ontario have participated in JUMP. This year the program is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

"It is great to watch some of our quieter students or less adventurous students do things they may not have done before," said Nicole Kazemzadeh, a music teacher at Millen Woods Public School in Waterloo and a Laurier alumna, who has attended several JUMP camps with her students. "I love hearing about their experiences when they come back to school, full of new memories and often a great deal more confidence than when they left."

Created in 1994 with six participating schools, this year's program, which runs until the end of June, includes 70 classes from 41 different schools.

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