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Laurier welcomes first-year students to Waterloo with a week of orientation events

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is welcoming first-year students to its Waterloo campus community this fall with a series of orientation events taking place **Sept. 2-8**.

The Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union has organized an [Orientation Week](#) schedule that highlights the strengths of Laurier's inclusive community. Orientation Week will focus on helping first-year students balance elements of student life while achieving academic success, enjoying life in the Waterloo Region, and understanding the importance of Laurier's student body in the community. A select list of Orientation Week events with photo opportunities for the media can be found below, including times and locations.

"Hundreds of student volunteers, faculty and staff have been hard at work preparing for the arrival of our new incoming class," said **Leanne Holland Brown, dean of students in Waterloo**. "There are countless opportunities for students to learn about Laurier's programs, resources and services available to support their personal and academic success. We're thrilled to welcome our newest Golden Hawks to the Laurier community."

Key programming initiatives for Orientation Week include sessions covering consent and gendered violence prevention, physical and mental wellness with an emphasis on student safety and support.

"Equipping our incoming students with the necessary resources so they can have an experience like none other is our aim," said **Tarique Plummer, president and CEO** of the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union. "We understand the pressures associated with starting university, the misconceptions that may be present and the nerve levels that perhaps are soaring; as such, our programming has been customized to address the needs of our membership."

All first-year students will attend **Student Success Sessions Sept. 4** for tips and advice from faculty champions on a successful and positive start to university, and **Academic Success Sessions on Sept. 5**, which provide academic program and faculty-specific information, including the opportunity to meet key faculty members and academic advisors.

The **Positive Pulse** event on **Sept. 4** will focus on student wellness and mental health. The event incorporates physical activities such as yoga and Zumba, and gives students the chance to ask tough questions about transition and change. Facilitated by educational programming company Disruptt, students can anonymously submit any fears they have about coming to university, which are addressed through thought-provoking questions and responses.

Laurier will again host a demonstration about the importance of kitchen and bedroom fire safety, presented by Waterloo Fire Rescue (WFR) at Laurier's Northdale Campus on **Sept. 4**.

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Firefighters will ignite and suppress fire in a single room to demonstrate the importance of smoke alarms, how quickly fire can spread and the importance of having an evacuation plan. The kitchen fire demonstration will show the effect of putting water on a grease fire and how to properly extinguish it.

On **Sept. 5**, following the academic information and program-specific sessions, author and co-founder of the [Date Safe Project Inc.](#), Mike Domitrz, will present '**Can I Kiss You?**' This interactive presentation brings a unique approach to tackling important topics such as dating, intimacy, consent, how to be an active bystander, and sexual assault.

On **Sept. 6**, students will meet fellow first-year students from other schools at **WaterlooFest** in Waterloo Public Square. Organized in partnership with the City of Waterloo, the University of Waterloo and Laurier, the event includes live performances and food trucks and allows students to meet city officials and each other while getting to know their city.

On **Sept. 8**, first-year students will participate in **Shine Day** throughout Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge and Brantford. Continuing a tradition that started at Laurier more than 50 years ago, students will wash cars, shine shoes and run barbecues to raise money for [Shinerama](#), which helps fund cystic fibrosis research and treatment.

Running parallel to the Students' Union programming is [International Orientation](#) for Laurier's new international students from **Aug. 31-Sept. 3**, and [Graduate Student Orientation](#) events on **Sept. 4**.

Laurier's Brantford campus will also be running [Orientation Week activities](#) for first-year students.

Photo opportunities at Laurier's Waterloo campus Orientation Week Events

Room Burn Demonstration, Sept. 4, 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Location: Laurier Northdale Campus 66 Hickory Street W

Can I Kiss You, Sept. 5, 2-3 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Location: Athletic Complex

City of Waterloo's Waterloo Fest, Sept. 6, 4 -7 p.m.
Location: Uptown Waterloo

Get Involved Fair, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Location: Laurier Alumni Field

Shine Day (Shinerama 2018), Sept. 8, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Various locations in Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge and Brantford

Fall term classes begin Sept. 6, with passive programming for Orientation Week scheduled on Sept. 6 and Sept. 7 to allow students to attend classes.

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