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

BRANTFORD – Wilfrid Laurier University is welcoming first-year students to its Brantford campus community this fall with a series of orientation events taking place **Sept. 3-8**

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 City of Brantford, 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.

"Orientation Week is filled with activities and events to help integrate incoming students into the Laurier and Brantford communities," said **Adam Lawrence, dean of students** for the Brantford campus. "The Students' Union, Student Affairs staff, faculty members and senior student volunteers have been working extremely hard to create a transition program to help prepare students for academic and personal success in the coming year."

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, whether registered for Orientation Week or not, will attend **Student Success Sessions Sept. 4** for tips and advice from faculty champions on a successful and positive start to university.

A perennial favourite of O-week at the Brantford campus, the Mayor's Lunch will be back again on **Sept. 5** with municipal officials serving lunch to first-year students at Harmony Square to officially welcome them to Brantford.

Laurier will host a demonstration about the importance of fire safety, presented by the Brantford Fire Department, at the parking lot behind Laurier's Post House Residence on **Sept. 5 at 6 p.m.** 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.

On the morning of **Sept. 5**, author and co-founder of the [Date Safe Project Inc.](#), Mike Domitrz, will present 'Can I Kiss You?' at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts. 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 have the chance to take in a campus information fair and yoga. Students can also sample the flavours of the city with Taste of Downtown, presented by restaurants from across the city.

On **Sept. 8**, first-year Laurier students will participate in Shine Day throughout Brantford, Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge. 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**.

## **Photo opportunities at Brantford campus Orientation Week Events**

Carnival Day, Sept. 4, 1 p.m.

Location: Research and Academic Centre Courtyard

Mayor's Lunch, Sept. 5, noon – 1:30 p.m.

Location: Harmony Square

Room Burn Demonstration, Sept. 5, 6 p.m.

Location: Parking lot behind Post House Residence (located at corner of George St. and Dalhousie St.)

Info Fair, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Research and Academic Centre Lobby and Courtyard

Taste of Downtown, Sept. 6, 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Location: Research and Academic Centre Lobby and Courtyard

Shine Day (Shinerama 2018), Sept. 8, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Various locations in Brantford, Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge

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