Inside Laurier Summer 2015

Mike Lazaridis, Ontario government invest in Laurier

Combined $35-million donations to create Laurier-based technology management institute

Recent investments in Laurier by renowned business executive, technology entrepreneur and philanthropist Mike Lazaridis and the Ontario government will lead to the creation of a new Laurier-based management institute that will enhance business programs and support the growth of a globally competitive technology industry in Canada.

The Lazaridis Institute for the Management of Technology Enterprises was made possible by a $20-million donation from Lazaridis and $15 million in support from the provincial government. Both gifts were announced in April.

This $35-million investment in Laurier represents a shared vision in which Lazaridis, the province and the university are working together to strengthen Ontario’s high-tech industry by improving the managerial leadership of Canadian technology enterprises.

“This is a truly transformational investment,” said Max Blouw, Laurier president and vice-chancellor. “It leverages the tremendous expertise that Laurier already possesses in business, economics and entrepreneurship, and it will enhance the competitiveness of Canada’s technology sector. We are extremely grateful to Mike Lazaridis and to the Ontario government for their generous investment in our university, in our students and in the broader community.”

Micheál Kelly, dean of the Laurier School of Business and Economics, said the Lazaridis Institute for the Management of Technology Enterprises will play an important role in Canadian business education and research.

“The investment by Mike Lazaridis and the Province of Ontario in the creation of this institute takes advantage of Laurier’s stellar track record for business education and research and will have significant impact on the ability of technology companies — in the Waterloo Region and across Canada — to grow and compete internationally,” said Kelly. “This will be a world-class
institute designed to ensure that Canadian technology companies have the management talent and knowledge to compete in global markets.”

Lazaridis said Laurier has a well-earned reputation for developing highly skilled business leaders. With this historic gift, the university can play an even greater role in producing world-class managerial talent for the provincial and Canadian technology industry — a vision shared by Lazaridis, the province and Laurier.

“This investment in the Laurier School of Business and Economics builds on the world-class research institutions that have been established in Waterloo and the deep culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in this region,” said Lazaridis. “This institute will play a fundamental role in developing business managers with the tools necessary to build globally competitive high-technology businesses including those in the Quantum Valley.

“We want to thank the Province of Ontario for their continuing vision and support for technology entrepreneurship in this province.”

Lazaridis is internationally known for creating the groundbreaking BlackBerry smartphone, building BlackBerry into an $18-billion global business, and reshaping the global mobile communications industry. He is currently a founding partner in Quantum Valley Investments, a Waterloo-based fund that focuses on the commercialization of breakthrough technologies in quantum information science and which seeks to support Waterloo Region’s growing reputation as the “Quantum Valley.”

The new institute will be housed in Laurier’s $103-million, state-of-the-art Global Innovation Exchange (GIE), which is nearing completion on University Avenue in Waterloo and is funded in part with a previous $72.6-million investment from the province. The GIE building will also house Laurier’s business and economics programs and its Mathematics department. The technology in the GIE will surpass that of any other teaching facility in Canada. The innovative design of the building will enhance the synergies between the Lazaridis Institute and Laurier’s business, economics and applied and financial math programs, and will serve as an iconic representation of the leadership role that Laurier plays in Waterloo’s technology industry and in Canadian business.

Laurier alumni can be found as CEOs of Canada’s leading companies including Bank of Montreal, Toyota Canada, Procter & Gamble, AIG Insurance, Kellogg’s Canada and many more. As well, more than 1,800 SBE alumni have founded their own companies (based on 2006 data). Laurier’s School of Business and Economics has a strong track record for developing successful tech-industry leaders. At least 40 SBE alumni in Waterloo Region are presidents and/or CEOs of technology companies; and 120 SBE alumni in Waterloo Region work at senior-level positions in technology companies.

Laurier is in the midst of a landmark fundraising campaign. The Building Canada’s Best Business School campaign aims to raise $55 million for the School of Business and Economics. The campaign is raising funds to support student scholarships, help retain and recruit top faculty,
complete the new and innovative GIE building, and strengthen Laurier’s unique, pioneering programming.
In addition to the Lazaridis gift, other donations have come from TD Bank Group, Bill Webb and Agnes Wong, Michael and Hennie Stork, the McGrath family, the Marsland family, Bank of Montreal, and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada.

Admission confirmations up more than 21 per cent

Laurier continues to be a top choice for students as the number of applicants who have accepted an offer of admission for first-year study in 2015-16 rose more than 21 per cent over last year. As of the June 1 deadline for confirmations, the total number of students who had accepted an offer of admission from Laurier was 4,232 — up 756, or 21.7 per cent, over the same time last year for programs currently offered by the university. Confirmed acceptances were up across the university, including the Faculty of Arts, which rose 22.9 per cent.
Applicants who apply for first-year studies through the Ontario Universities’ Applications Centre fall into three categories: Ontario students applying directly from high school (known as 101s); students applying after a year or more away from high school and all Canadian students applying from outside of Ontario (105s); and international students (visa). Confirmations from 101 students comprise the largest of these groups and Laurier saw a 9.1 per cent lift over 2014 confirmations in this category, representing 3,727 new students accepting a Laurier offer for September. Sizeable increases from non-high school and international visa students account for the overall increase of 21.7 per cent.
“These numbers show that Laurier is offering the kind of relevant programming and exceptional student experience that today’s students are looking for, despite a decline in university-age demographics and intense competition among post-secondary institutions,” said Deborah MacLatchy, vice-president: academic and provost. “We are extremely pleased that we hit or exceeded our targets across all faculties and locations. Students clearly see value in learning to think critically, conduct research, and acquire knowledge, all within a stimulating environment that fosters personal development.”
Increases were well distributed between Laurier’s campuses in Waterloo and Brantford. The number of students who accepted an offer for Laurier’s Waterloo campus is 3,621, up 21.3 per cent; the number who have accepted an offer for Laurier’s Brantford campus is 611, up 24.1 per cent.
The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) recently released a report that shows Ontario university graduates have the best labour-market outcomes and highest incomes of any educational attainment group, and have experienced the highest employment growth over the last decade.
“Data consistently show that Ontario’s university graduates are securing good, well-paying jobs soon after graduation, and that they are out-earning their peers with other levels of education,” said Max Blouw, Laurier president and vice-chancellor and COU chair. “A university education remains one of the most enduring investments a person can make.”

**President’s Message: Convocation a time for Laurier to celebrate**

Universities are wonderful places partly because they offer so many opportunities to stimulate the mind while surrounded by bright, youthful and energetic people. And of the many enriching experiences few are more delightful, rewarding and significant than convocation. Each ceremony is a joyous event, a time to step back from the busy pace of life and celebrate the achievements of our graduands and of the enduring value of education.

It is a time to acknowledge and celebrate what we do so well at Laurier: teaching, discovery, creativity, and helping new generations of young people grow and develop into well-educated, thoughtful and engaged citizens.

It is also a time to welcome parents, families and friends to our campuses, to acknowledge the support and encouragement they provide to students, and to validate their confidence in our university and that higher education contributes substantially to the betterment of society.

Another important element of convocation is the awarding of honorary degrees. Honorary degrees are awarded honoris causa, “for the sake of the honour,” and recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions locally, nationally, and globally. At Laurier, we strive to choose recipients whose lives reflect the university’s values and ideals, which are reflected in Laurier’s institutional proposition, Inspiring lives of leadership and purpose.

The seven honorary degree recipients at this year’s spring convocation included: opera singer Isabel Bayrakdarian; scholar Natalie Zemon Davis; education activist Ziauddin Yousafzai; entrepreneur and philanthropist Aziz Bhaloo; former teacher and co-creator of the popular Degrassi television series Linda Schuyler; Lutheran leader and human rights activist Martin Junge; and Mohawk language preservationist Brian Maracle.

I was deeply impressed by the inspiring remarks delivered by each of our honorary degree recipients. In just one example, which aligned closely with Laurier’s institutional proposition, Brian Maracle urged our graduands to aspire, as the Mohawk people do, to be “original persons.”

To do this, he advised that we must first strive “to be thankful” in our daily lives; and, second, that we be of “a good mind,” which he explained as letting “thoughtfulness, kindness and respect control our words and behaviours,” no matter how difficult our lives might be.

“Be thankful; be of a good mind; go in peace,” he concluded.
And so I would express a similar sentiment to all of you. Thank you for your many contributions over the past year and for making this convocation season so gratifying and memorable. I hope that you are able to take time this summer to enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation, and that you return to Laurier feeling restored, “thankful” and “of a good mind.”

Dr. Max Blouw
President and Vice-Chancellor
Wilfrid Laurier University

News Briefs

**Steve Sider wins Residence Academic Partnership award**
Steve Sider, assistant professor in Laurier’s Faculty of Education, is the recipient of the winter 2015 Residence Academic Partner Award. Sider served as a valuable expert for Laurier’s Residence Education team in the establishment of a “Glocal” (global and local) Residence Learning Community (RLC) – a residence community for first-year students focused on shaping learning experiences that explore the relationship between global and local issues. Throughout the semester, Sider worked alongside Genelle Martin, a don for the Global Residence Learning Community, and contributed his time and expertise to the students, exploring how seemingly small acts have a much larger impact in an increasingly interconnected world. The Residence Academic Partnership Award is bestowed on one faculty member each term to recognize faculty who support academic initiatives within the university’s residences.

**Laurier student among first recipients of Dutch Liberation Scholarship**
Laurier student Jeremy Smith was recently announced as one of the first five recipients to be awarded a Liberation Scholarship from the Netherlands. The scholarship program, which celebrates the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands by Canadian forces at the end of the Second World War, was announced in Waterloo in late May by Their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima as part of an official state visit to Canada. Smith, who just completed his second year in undergraduate Arts at Laurier’s Waterloo campus, will use the scholarship to study at Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands for the coming academic year. The scholarship covers travel and tuition, and includes other support while studying in the Netherlands.
First class of teachers graduates from Laurier mental health certificate program

Laurier graduated its first cohort in the Faculty of Education’s certificate in mental health on May 2. The Mental Health Issues in the Classroom certificate is tailored to teachers and education administrators and fills a void in training in student mental health. The certificate, offered in partnership with Laurier’s Office of Continuing Studies, helps teachers gain theoretical and practical knowledge to understand, identify and work with students with mental health issues.

Launched in January 2014, the certificate has been well received by the community, with participation from 12 different school boards from around southwestern Ontario.

Rebecca Godderis receives OUSA teaching award

Rebecca Godderis, associate professor at Laurier’s Brantford campus, was awarded the 2015 Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Award for Teaching Excellence. The award recognizes educators who excel at unlocking the potential of Ontario’s young people. The recipient is chosen from Laurier faculty who have been nominated by Laurier students. Each member school of OUSA selects one faculty member to receive the award. Godderis is the seventh Laurier faculty member to be honoured with the award and the second recipient from Laurier’s Brantford campus.

Godderis has been teaching at Laurier Brantford since 2009 and specializes in teaching courses on gender, sexuality and well-being in the Society, Culture and Environment and Health Studies programs.

Previous OUSA award winners from Laurier include: Sofy Carayannopoulos, Jason Roy, Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts, Bruce McKay, Kris Gerhardt, and Kerry Lappin-Fortin.

Chris Dodd recognized with award of excellence

Laurier Director of Residence Chris Dodd received the Award of Excellence at the Ontario Association of College and University Housing Officers annual spring conference. The award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated a high level of commitment and outstanding leadership in the field of housing at their institution while also providing exemplary service to students.

Dodd has become a leader in student affairs since coming to Laurier in 1999, and has played a large role in establishing the direction of Laurier’s residence operations as well as the student affairs community in Canada. Under Dodd’s direction, Laurier’s residence operations have been responsive to shifts in Canadian students’ needs and have become a vital tool for first-year students to transition to university.
Laurier to operate prestigious Beckett School

Renowned institute becomes part of new Laurier Conservatory of Music

By Mieke Barrette

Laurier recently took a major step forward in its commitment to the musical life of Waterloo Region. Beginning in the fall of 2015, Laurier’s Faculty of Music will assume operation of the Beckett School of Music, which has been gifted to the university by William J. Labron and Lynn McRuer.

The school will become part of a new Laurier Conservatory of Music housed at the Waterloo campus.

The Beckett School provides instruction in all woodwind, brass and string instruments, guitar, lute, voice, piano, music theory and speech arts. The school also offers an early childhood music program for three- to seven-year olds, which is the oldest and largest introductory music program for young children in the region.

In mid June, Laurier appointed Martlin Nagtegaal to a year long post as the school’s interim director. Nagtegaal holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Manitoba, a graduate degree from Western University, and an advanced performance diploma from the Rotterdam Conservatory. He has served in a number of administrative capacities and has performed recitals across Canada, the Netherlands and Germany. He has also has performed many times on radio and television.

Existing Beckett School instructors have been retained, along with the several part-time Laurier instructors who already teach in the Beckett School. Over time, it is expected that greater connections will develop between the conservatory and the Faculty of Music, including teaching opportunities for music students in pedagogy courses.

The Faculty of Music’s many non-credit programs will operate under the umbrella of the conservatory.

“This is a transformative step forward for our Faculty of Music,” said Glen Carruthers, Laurier’s dean of music. “The Beckett School has a tremendous reputation across the country for top-quality musical instruction and we will build on this tradition of excellence. By opening the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community in 2008 and introducing Canada’s first Master of Arts in Community Music in 2013, Laurier has assumed a leadership role in community music education. The Conservatory of Music is a natural outcome of our ongoing commitment to music in the region, and is a fitting complement to our thriving Faculty of Music.”

“I am very pleased to deliver the Beckett School to Laurier as a vehicle to further connect our community with the Faculty of Music,” said Labron. “The new opportunities and synergies
created by aligning these two outstanding institutions is exciting and affirms the high level of expertise at each school. The collegial inventory of many years of experience and the tradition of family involvement at the Beckett School go a long way to reinforce the value of music in our community.”

The Beckett School was founded by Marjorie and Garth Beckett. It began operations in September 1980 in uptown Waterloo, offering instruction in piano, theory, and early childhood music education. In 2000, the school moved to its present location in downtown Kitchener, and acquired more studio and classroom space.

The Beckett School is now the largest music school in the region, with approximately 1,000 students and 40 teachers.

**Michael Lee-Chin appointed to second term**

Laurier has appointed Michael Lee-Chin to a second four-year term as chancellor of the university, effective Oct. 28, 2015.

A renowned investor, businessman and philanthropist, Lee-Chin has served as chancellor since 2011 and is the eighth person to occupy the role since the university became a public institution in 1973.

“I am delighted that Michael has agreed to remain with us for another term,” said Laurier President and Vice-Chancellor Max Blouw.

“As chancellor, he has generously shared his valuable insights and perspective with the university’s senior leaders. He has also been a wonderful ambassador for Laurier, helping us raise the profile of the university among influential audiences.

“And his warm and engaging presence at convocation has enhanced the meaningfulness of this important ceremony for our graduates and honorary degree recipients.”

Lee-Chin said he was pleased to continue his association with Laurier.

“I would like to thank the university for its kind expression of confidence,” he said. “I feel so honored to have been appointed for a second term.”

**Laurier home to Waterloo’s first on-campus bicycle share station**

Biking to work is a great way to get some exercise and help the environment. Laurier’s Sustainability Office is looking to make getting out of the car and on to a two-wheeler easier for the entire university community.
Thanks to a partnership between the Sustainability Office and Community Access Bikeshare (CAB), Laurier recently launched the first on-campus bike sharing station in the region. Through the initiative, the sustainability office hopes to provide affordable access to bicycles as alternative transportation to students, staff, faculty and community members.

“We’re thrilled to be partnering with Community Access Bikeshare for this new bike sharing station,” said Tyler Plante, coordinator: outreach and programs in the Sustainability Office. “This is another step towards embedding sustainability into campus life, and is a fun and healthy way for Laurier to connect with our broader community in the region.”

The bicycle sharing station joined seven other locations within the community, including stations in uptown Waterloo and downtown Kitchener.

The station is located on University Avenue near the Aird underpass, with the key box located inside Laurier’s John Aird Centre Theatre Auditorium. The bikes can only be accessed with an annual May-November membership.

Members must swipe their membership card at the key box and input a PIN to unlock a bike. Bikes can be returned to any station with available spots.

“Having an on-campus location marks a huge step in increasing cycling use in the region,” said Suzie Taka, project coordinator for Community Access Bikeshare. “Laurier’s Sustainability Office has been an amazing partner and we’re so glad they have seen the need for something that benefits student and environmental health.”

In addition to launching the CAB station, the Sustainability Office also hosted lunch-time bike rides to uptown Waterloo restaurant Abe Erb to celebrate Bike Month in June. The weekly group rides gave faculty, staff and friends an opportunity to get some exercise on their lunch break – not to mention a discounted price on a delicious meal.

### Jennifer Casey named to new AVP position

Longtime Laurier employee Jennifer Casey was recently appointed to the position of assistant vice-president: enrolment services and registrar, effective July 1. Casey has held the role in an acting capacity since July 2014, successfully leading the development of stronger evidence-based decision-making in Enrolment Services, particularly in recruitment and admissions activities. Most recently Casey served as director: university community relations at Laurier and has held increasingly senior positions within the university, including manager: liaison services, director of development operations, and university secretary.

“I’m grateful for this opportunity and I believe this role is the perfect culmination of all my experiences at Laurier over the past 25 years,” said Casey. “The teams in Enrolment Services and Global Engagement are talented individuals who are strongly committed to student success. I am very much looking forward to working with them to establish Laurier as a leader in enrolment services.”
The role of assistant vice-president: enrolment services and registrar is a new position at Laurier, created as part of an approved strategy to reorganize the unit previously known as Academic Services. Through attrition, the positions of registrar and AVP: academic services have been replaced with the AVP: enrolment services and registrar and the chief information officer (CIO), resulting in no increase to the management complement.

Reporting to the vice-president: academic and provost, the AVP: enrolment services and registrar will deliver on a vision for a modern, efficient and responsive unit that encompasses a range of services including: enrolment and registrarial systems and services; design and leadership of recruitment strategies; and internationalization activities.

The university would like to thank Ruth MacNeil for her service and leadership in the acting registrar position since March 2014, during which time she has supported numerous efforts focused on student success and policy enhancement. MacNeil will return to the role of associate registrar: student awards, effective July 1.

**Kathryn Carter takes up post as acting associate vice-president: teaching and learning**

Kathryn Carter has been appointed Laurier’s acting associate vice-president: Teaching and Learning, effective July 1.

Carter previously served as associate dean: Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and inter-faculty associate dean: academic coordination. In the latter role, she reported directly to the vice-president: academic and provost and was responsible for central advising at the Brantford campus and for supporting collaboration between and within multi-campus academic programs. Her recent accomplishments include leading the development of the innovative Bachelor of Fine and Applied Arts in Game Design and Development, spearheading the construction of the first active learning classroom at the Brantford campus, collaborating on the expansion of the Laurier Launchpad to Brantford, and helping found the Yellow Brick Wall art exhibition space. Carter also serves as one of the leaders of Laurier’s Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation initiatives.

Carter joined Laurier in 2000 as a CAS instructor at the Brantford campus. In 2003, she was appointed to a tenure-track position in Contemporary Studies and English, where she became the first full-time English faculty member in Brantford. Over the past several years, Carter has served the university in a series of administrative roles, including contemporary studies program coordinator, associate dean, and acting dean. Carter is currently appointed to the English program in the Faculty of Liberal Arts. In addition to conducting research in nineteenth-century life writing, she has also written several plays, which have been produced by theatre companies in Paris, Ont.
As acting associate vice-president: Teaching and Learning, Carter will be responsible for the Centre for Student Success, the Centre for Teaching Innovation and Excellence, Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, and Academic Integrity. During Carter’s one-year appointment, a search will be conducted for a permanent associate vice-president: Teaching & Learning to replace Pat Rogers, who announced her retirement earlier this year.

**People at Laurier**

**New appointments:**
Martha Lawson, manager: compensation, benefits and employee well-being, Human Resources (Waterloo campus).

**Changes in staff appointments:**
Jennifer Drowns, intermediate administrative assistant, Faculty of Arts (Waterloo campus).
Mary Neil, alumni officer (faculties), Development and Alumni Relations (Waterloo campus).

**Retirements:**
Rick Elliot, associate professor, Mathematics (Waterloo campus).
Anna Gall, custodian, Physical Resources (Waterloo campus).
Hubert Guttensohn, custodian, Physical Resources (Waterloo campus).
Joanne Knaut, custodian, Physical Resources (Waterloo campus).
John Laband, professor, History (Waterloo campus).
Mike Mayne, carpenter, Physical Resources (Waterloo campus).
Zofia Nowacky, custodian, Physical Resources (Waterloo campus).
Anna Papinski, custodian, Physical Resources (Waterloo campus).
Shirley Rody, custodian, Physical Resources (Waterloo campus).
Peter Tiidus, professor, Kinesiology and Physical Education (Waterloo campus).
Richard Walsh, professor, History (Waterloo campus).

**Where are you volunteering?**

**Name:** Chris Hewitt

**Job Title:** Manager, ICT Technical Support, Brantford campus

**Organization:** St. John Ambulance and Scouts Canada
I’m a member of the St. John Ambulance - Woodstock/Brant chapter and for the past year, I’ve sat on their board of directors. The work St. John does is important, including medical first-responders and therapy dogs. We visit Laurier Brantford at least twice per year and brings students stress relief! Additionally, I volunteer as a scout leader with Scouts Canada in Paris, Ontario. From the age of five to 17 I was involved in Scouts Canada and now have the opportunity to give back to a great organization. Scouts have a lot of fun discovering new things and experiences they wouldn’t have elsewhere. Along the way they develop into capable, confident, well-rounded individuals, better prepared for success. My goal is to help them discover the best in themselves and others.

What are you reading?

Name: Kimberly Elworthy

Job Title: Communications and Public Affairs Officer, Waterloo campus

Book Title: The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: the Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing

Author: Marie Kondo

This is the book of Japanese tidying genius Marie Kondo. Kondo sees tidying as a way of putting your life in order, surrounding yourself only with things that “spark joy” and, on a deeper level, becoming self aware about your relationship with your things. Her philosophy is addictive and truly does change your life. The book is a quick read and includes a handful of useful insights about organizing your space. The most surprising part of the book for me was how Kondo was able to articulate when we keep things due to feelings of guilt. Kondo says, “If you don’t love it, set it fee.”

Laurier appoints new dean of Arts

Waterloo native Richard Nemesvari to begin term Sept. 1

By Justin Fauteux

Wilfrid Laurier University has appointed Richard Nemesvari as the new dean of its Faculty of Arts. Nemesvari joins Laurier from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, where he has been dean of Arts since 2010.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Richard Nemesvari join us as the next dean of the Faculty of Arts following an international search,” said Deborah MacLatchy, Laurier vice-president: academic and provost.
“Dr. Nemesvari has a first-rate record as an academic administrator and comes to Laurier at a
time when there is significant opportunity to further develop our strengths in the humanities and
social sciences.”
Among his many accomplishments while heading St. FX’s Faculty of Arts, Nemesvari was
responsible for leading the development of the Arts Pathways website, which links academic
choices in Arts disciplines with career opportunities. In addition to academic initiatives,
Nemesvari co-chaired the Preventing Violence Against Women at St. FX Committee. He also
chaired St. FX’s Joint Equity Committee, sat on the university’s Strategic Planning Committee
and served as chair of the Faculty of Arts and of the General Faculty at St. FX.
“I eagerly anticipate taking up the position of dean in the Faculty of Arts at Wilfrid Laurier
University,” said Nemesvari.
“The innovative programing the Faculty offers demonstrates its commitment to advancing the
study of the humanities and social sciences in ways that are unique and attractive to
contemporary students.
“Expanding on this already outstanding foundation will provide an exciting opportunity to
engage with faculty, staff and learners of all kinds, so that together we can continue the tradition
of excellence at Laurier.”
Joining Laurier will be a homecoming for Nemesvari, a Waterloo native who completed his
undergraduate degree at the University of Waterloo. A specialist in Victorian literature,
Nemesvari holds a master’s degree from the University of Toronto and a PhD from Queen’s
University, where he was an assistant professor for two years prior to joining St. FX. Before
serving as dean of Arts at St. FX, Nemesvari spent two decades in the university’s English
department – starting as an assistant professor in 1990, being named a full professor in 2006 –
where he was a two-term chair.
Nemesvari’s term at Laurier will officially begin Sept. 1. He will be taking over from Michael
Carroll, whose five-year term commenced in 2010. Carroll will return to the Faculty of Arts as a
tenured full professor in July 2016, following his earned administrative leave.
“During Dr. Carroll’s leadership in the Faculty of Arts, key initiatives included development of
active learning classrooms, first-year seminars and new experiential options for undergraduate
students,” said MacLatchy. “On behalf of Laurier, I thank Dr. Carroll for his focus on integrated
and engaged learning and leaving an important legacy for students in the Faculty.”
Michel Desjardins, associate dean of the Faculty of Arts, will serve as acting dean from July 1 to
August 31.

**Staff Development Day ‘inspires change’**

Laurier’s Department of Human Resources hosted its fifth-annual Staff Development Day in late
June, exploring the theme “Inspiring you: inspiring change.”
The annual day of personal and professional development workshops featured keynote speeches and breakout sessions on how to embrace, navigate and thrive in times of change. Breakout sessions covered topics such as: public speaking and leadership, changing the campus culture on gendered violence, how buying local food can improve health and how to put emotional intelligence to work when dealing with change.

The conference’s opening keynote address, “Change Direction Without Losing Your Mind”, was delivered by comedian Deborah Kimmett, a veteran of The Second City and CBC radio and television. In addition to her performance pedigree, Kimmett is an accomplished writer, authoring three books, twice being nominated for the National Magazine Award for humour and writing a Governor General’s Award-nominated play, Miracle Mother. She’s also developed a reputation as sought-after motivational speaker, with high-profile companies such as Microsoft, Bell Canada, RBC and IBM among her clients.

Kimmett had the audience in Laurier’s Bricker Academic Building in stitches as she used her wit and experience in improvisational comedy, to show the audience how change can affect them and how to deal with it “without freaking out.”

Closing out the day was Laurier alumna Meghan Kirwan, who delivered a presentation entitled, “Thrive Through Change: The Power of Our Mind, Body and Hearts.” Founder of The Kirwan Group, Kirwan works as a mentor, coach and facilitator to help build thriving workplaces.

Kirwan believes that individuals and organizations can reach their full potential through positive psychology, a burgeoning field of scientific study sometimes referred to as “the science of happiness.”

During her session, Kirwan explored how the mind, body and heart can offer support through periods of change. Discussing the importance of mindfulness, positive emotions, and honouring the body, Kirwan revealed how to facilitate positive change.

University will continue to pursue a campus in Milton

Laurier was disappointed that its proposal to create a campus in the Town of Milton did not receive approval through the major capital expansion process established by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). Laurier has an outstanding record of achievement in developing vibrant campus communities that provide exceptional opportunities for learning and community engagement.

Consequently, the university remains committed to the important goal of bringing post-secondary education to the Milton community, and it will continue to work with its public and private-sector partners to prepare for future opportunities to secure provincial approval for a campus in Milton.
“It is a profound disappointment for the university and for the community partners with whom we have worked very hard over the past seven years,” said Max Blouw, Laurier president and vice-chancellor.

“Our proposal aligned with all the key requirements and objectives set out by the province, and it provided an innovative and responsible approach to satisfying the growing need for higher education in Milton, Halton Region and the Greater Toronto Area.”

The Laurier Milton bid proposed a 150-acre deep-green university campus situated within a 400-acre Milton Education Village (MEV) on the southwest side of town, adjacent to the protected Niagara Escarpment greenbelt.

The overall MEV, to be developed by municipal and private-sector partners, would be a purpose-built, fully integrated neighborhood of multi-level education, research and commercialization, as well as complementary residential and commercial development.

Through the MTCU’s major capital expansion process, Laurier had sought approval for the initial phase of campus planning and development.

The province’s decision to not approve the Laurier Milton proposal comes as a profound surprise and disappointment to all who have worked on this project. The university will immediately confer with its partners to develop a strategy that will ensure it is ready for the next opportunity to seek provincial approval for a Laurier campus in Milton.

Coffee with a Co-Worker: Ben Yang

Name: Ben Yang

Title: Director, Global Engagement, Laurier International

Where you can find him:

Laurier International Office, Arts Building, Waterloo campus

Drink of choice: Tea

How long have you been at Laurier?
I joined Laurier in February 2014, after spending 19 years at the University of Toronto and a couple of years working at Georgian College.

What is your typical work day like?
In many aspects my typical work day is similar to other colleagues at Laurier. What’s unique about my work day is that I connect with people and learn about happenings around the world every day! World events, from natural disasters to currency fluctuation, often have direct impact on my daily work.
One of the most enjoyable moments of my work day is when I point at the map and ask an international student: “Tell me more about the city where you come from.” It always opens up an engaging conversation.
I feel so fortunate that I’m getting paid for talking to interesting people!
What do you like to do in your spare time?
I don’t have much spare time, as I am continuously in touch with students and institutional partners across the globe. When our work day is over in Waterloo, my colleagues and business associates in China for example, are just beginning their day.
But I do manage to have some fun. In the winter months, I am an avid skier. This past season, I hit the slopes in Blue Mountain many times. I skied in Banff the year before and hope to do some “real skiing” (bigger mountains) in the coming season.
A few years back, I tried skydiving north of Toronto. That was when I worked at the University of Toronto and I managed to persuade five of my co-workers to go skydiving. The first attempt was cancelled due to weather, and by the time we rescheduled, the left-brain took control of four of my colleagues and only one person joined me jumping out of the plane. It seems that most people who work in the field of international education enjoy a sense of adventure.
What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?
I think people don’t often associate a Chinese guy wearing glasses with hip-moving salsa dancing. Ten years ago, some friends from Venezuela invited me to join them for an evening of salsa at a Latin place in Toronto. I said “Sure! I eat anything.” I thought “Salsa” was a special delicacy from Venezuela. Little did I know that they were referring to the ever-popular Latin dance.
For more than a decade, I have been enjoying the dance – it truly is “good for the body…good for the soul.”
What do you like most about working at Laurier?
From the moment I arrived on campus, I felt a strong sense of community and collegiality among staff, faculty and senior administration. I’ve been impressed by how supportive staff and faculty have been with our internationalization initiatives; particularly, how the Laurier community welcomes and supports international students.
We are launching a new initiative with opening the “Global Kitchen” at the Harris Hope House on Albert Street. It’d be a great place for the Laurier community to learn and celebrate different cultures through sharing foods from different parts of the world.
I hope Laurier colleagues will participate in some programs offered at the Global Kitchen.
What are your plans for the future?
My plan is to continue to build and foster relationships internally at Laurier as well as within the community and abroad. Internationalization is a pillar for Laurier. It is important that we attract and retain students from all over the globe and provide them with an excellent academic and social experience.
It is equally important that we offer our local students an opportunity to travel abroad and experience the world through a different lens.
By Erin Almeida

Coming events

**Spirit of Change: A Deborah Pryce retrospective**
When: June 30, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Where: Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo campus
Cost: Free
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary presents a retrospective exhibition of the work of artist Deborah Pryce. The artworks are 2-D and 3-D explorations in paint, clay, fabric and acrylic.

**National Youth Orchestra of Canada concert series**
When: June 24 - July 21
Where: Maureen Forrester Recital Hall, Waterloo campus
Cost: Free/entry by donation
Laurier will be hosting a showcase of musical talent as the National Youth Orchestra of Canada (NYOC) returns to the Waterloo campus, the long-term home of its summer training institute. The concerts will feature NYOC students and faculty and special guests. For a detailed schedule, visit wlu.ca/music.

**SunLife Financial UpTown Waterloo Jazz Festival**
When: July 17-19
Where: Uptown Waterloo
Cost: Free
Waterloo’s annual three-day free jazz festival returns for its 23rd season. Free performances will be running all day on the main stage located in the Waterloo City Centre parking lot, with additional acts at The Jazz Room located in the Heuther Hotel (cover charges will apply for performances at The Jazz Room). Visit uptownwaterloojazz.ca for more details.

**Summer Concerts in the Square**
When: Every Monday until Aug. 24, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Where: Waterloo Public Square, 75 King St. South, Waterloo
Cost: Free
Start your work week with a free outdoor concert in uptown Waterloo! Every Monday until the end of the summer, the Waterloo Public Square will host a variety of musical acts. For more information, including a list of performers, visit waterloo.ca/ArtsAndCulture.
*For a full list of summertime community events in Waterloo, visit waterloo.ca.*
**Movies in the Square**
When: Every Thursday from July 2 - Aug. 27, dusk (7:30 p.m.)
Where: Harmony Square, downtown Brantford
Cost: Free
Enjoy classic movies under the stars right in downtown Brantford! This year’s screenings will include: Grease, D2: The Mighty Ducks, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, Cinderella and newer titles like Guardians of The Galaxy and Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom.

**Yoga in the Square**
When: Every Tuesday from July 7 - Aug. 25, 6:15 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. Where: Harmony Square, downtown Brantford
Cost: Free
Start your day in a peaceful state of mind with these weekly beginner’s yoga lessons offered by the Welkin Wellness Centre. These free outdoor classes will relieve your stress and help you stay relaxed all day.
*For a full list of summertime community events in Brantford, visit brantford.ca.

**2015 Move-In days**
When: Sept. 6-7
Where: Waterloo and Brantford Campuses
It’ll be here before you know it! As the Labour Day weekend concludes, a fresh crop of first-year students will settle into their new homes, while upper-year students will return for another exciting year at Laurier.

**18th Annual Dean’s Alumni Golf Classic**
When: Sept. 18, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Where: Grey Silo Golf Club,
Cost: $125 early bird (before July 15), $150 full price
Join us for a fun-filled, golf-only day where you can re-connect with old friends and make some new connections. Gather a foursome of former classmates for a great day of golf and celebration while helping the next generation of SBE students reach their full potential. All proceeds go towards supporting the SBE Student Leadership Awards!

**Waterloo Campus Homecoming**
When: Sept. 25-27
Where: Waterloo campus
Cost: varies
Get ready to break out the old purple and gold for Laurier’s biggest annual celebration! Come reconnect with old classmates, meet different generations of Laurier alumni and take in what
promises to be a thrilling football game between the Golden Hawks and the Windsor Lancers at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26. Keep an eye on Laurieralumni.ca for more details.

Research File: Laurier a leader in northern research

University to expand work in Canada’s North; GNWT officials visit Waterloo campus

By Shawna Reibling

Thanks to a recent $3.2 million in funding, Laurier’s Changing Arctic Network (CANet) research team will be able to expand its world-leading work in Canada’s North. Announced by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) in late May, the funding will enable the Laurier-Government of Northwest Territories partnership to develop world-class research infrastructure throughout the Northwest Territories to continue building Laurier’s global leadership in cold regions environmental research. This infrastructure funding will support new research stations, as well as 20 “living laboratories,” each representing a widely occurring biophysical environment; plus, updates to three environment and natural resources laboratories in the Northwest Territories.

This new infrastructure will provide the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada with improved knowledge about these fragile northern environments, how to manage the forests, waters and fish of these regions and ensure that northern resources are developed in a sustainable manner.

“Building on our partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories, formalized in 2010, this funding allows us to grow and deepen the resources available for our joint work,” said Deborah MacLatchy, Laurier vice-president: academic and provost, and acting vice-president: research. “This CFI funding will support our transformative research infrastructure that enables the discoveries about the North that will improve the lives of Canadians.”

Climate warming is resulting in dramatic changes to ecosystems across the Canadian North, including conversion of forests to wetlands and tundra to shrub landscapes. It is also changing the quantity and quality of water in streams, rivers, and lakes, and thawing permafrost at unprecedented rates. Increasingly, circumpolar countries are looking to the Canadian North as an ideal location for conducting essential northern research. This knowledge is needed to understand the global implications of a changing climate. CANet will support world-leading infrastructure to meet these globally important research challenges.

“Northern Canada is one of the most rapidly warming regions on Earth,” said Jennifer Baltzer, associate professor of Biology and Canada Research Chair in Forest and Global Change. “The Changing Arctic Network will carry out integrated ecosystem studies to better understand the changes that are occurring to the tundra, forests, streams, rivers and lakes.”
In addition to these changes, the Canadian North is expected to undergo increased mining, oil and gas exploration and production and construction of new highways and pipelines in the coming years. “There is an urgent need to better understand the impact of a changing climate on the environment, and to begin preparing for increased resource development in the North,” said Philip Marsh, professor of Geography and Environmental Studies and Canada Research Chair in Cold Regions Water Science. “The CANet infrastructure platform will allow the Partnership to enhance its world-class research infrastructure throughout the Northwest Territories.”

CANet is interested in changes in flood frequency of rivers, in changes of water quality and in changes to the fish that inhabit these waters. “CANet will couple state-of-the-science research stations with neighbouring communities to facilitate knowledge development and sharing between scientists and local land users,” said William Quinton, associate professor of Geography and Environmental Studies and Canada Research Chair in Cold Regions Hydrology. Partners on the project include the Government of the Northwest Territories, Université de Montréal, the University of Guelph and the Laurier Institute of Water Science and the Cold Regions Research Centre.

Laurier researchers have spent decades working in the Northwest Territories and in 2010 the university signed a formal partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories. This partnership aligns Laurier research with territorial government and northern community priorities and helps influence the development of environmental policy. In late April, Laurier hosted two key players in the negotiation of one such piece of environmental legislation, the historic agreement recently signed between the Northwest Territories and Alberta to govern water resources in the Mackenzie River Basin. Minister Michael J. Miltenberger of the Government of the Northwest Territories and Merrell-Ann Phare, the government’s chief negotiator on the agreement visited the Waterloo campus to share the story of how the historic agreement was passed and take part in a discussion on environmental issues in Canada’s North.

Miltenberger and Phare discussed how crucial environmental legislation will be in the future as areas like the Mackenzie River watershed face threats such as climate change and developments like the Alberta Oilsands and British Columbia’s hydro dams. Following the NWT-Alberta agreement, 85 per cent of the basin will be protected with the two governments managing water resources collaboratively.

Miltenberger and Phare also mentioned that research like the work being by Laurier in Canada’s North will be critical to future progress when it comes to protecting the Arctic’s natural environment.

For more information on Laurier’s partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories, visit nwtwlu.com.
Research file: Three professors recognized by provincial government

Humphries, Anderson receive Early Researcher Awards; White benefits from Small Infrastructure Fund

By Kimberly Elworthy

Three Laurier researchers will receive funding from Ontario’s Ministry of Research and Innovation. Mark Humphries, director of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS) and Dunkley Chair in War and the Canadian Experience, and Kim Anderson, associate professor in the Indigenous Studies program, will both receive Early Researcher Awards. David White, associate professor in Laurier’s Psychology program, will receive funding through the Small Infrastructure Fund.

The funding was announced by Kathryn McGarry, Member of Provincial Parliament for Cambridge and parliamentary assistant to the minister of transportation, at an event June 18. “These outstanding Laurier researchers are on the cutting edge of their fields — fields that are of critical importance to understanding Canada’s past and Canada’s present and our natural world,” said Deborah MacLatchy, vice-president: academic and provost and acting vice-president: research. “They are representative of the exceptional calibre of research undertaken at Laurier’s Brantford and Waterloo campuses.”

Humphries and Anderson will each receive $100,000 in funding for their research projects over a five-year term; White will receive almost $60,000 in funding.

Humphries’ research will preserve, digitize and analyze more than 300,000 pension records of Canadian First World War veterans to better understand how the war changed their lives. By creating a large digital database of these records, currently slated for destruction, Humphries, along with his team, will preserve a part of Canada’s history. The information will enable other researchers to look at the life of veterans and their families.

“These records provide vital insight into how soldiers returned home, reintegrated into society and then lived lives in the receding shadow of the Great War,” said Humphries. “I hope that by studying how various programs succeeded or failed for these veterans in the past, we can help improve the lives of current members of the Canadian Forces and their families.”

Anderson’s research investigates the role of gender and age in Indigenous non-governmental organizations, specifically looking at how to integrate women, youth and elders into leadership roles in Indigenous settings.

The project will analyze current governance models at Indigenous non-governmental organizations to understand the role gender and age has played in influencing the organization. Anderson’s research hopes to provide an example of how to incorporate these traditionally marginalized perspectives into the governance and leadership at NGOs.
“When we understand the current leadership structure in governing organizations we can begin to address the gaps in representation,” said Anderson.

White’s research, “The Songbird Project: An integrative examination of social behaviour,” will study birds in large, semi-natural social environments using a high-tech “social sensor web” to track their social interactions in a “smart” aviary.

Using high-tech sensor technology, White will be able to monitor the social behaviours of birds to study how they develop into adults in a social environment. White’s study will challenge long-held beliefs about how learning and development evolves. White received $59,117 in funding from The Canadian Foundation for Innovation’s John R. Evans Leaders Fund in January 2015.

“Over the years that I’ve been studying songbirds, I have found that the social experiences most important for learning and development are extremely rapid, infrequent and occur throughout the subjects’ lifetimes,” said White. “The ‘smart’ aviary will capture it all, giving my students and I the opportunity to track all of the brief learning experiences that shape effective and ineffective social behaviour.”

Laurier celebrates the class of 2015

More than 3,000 students officially became Laurier alumni as the university celebrated its spring convocation ceremonies in mid June. In all, Laurier conferred more than 2,700 undergraduate degrees and 265 graduate degrees at nine ceremonies at the Athletic Complex in Waterloo and three at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts in Brantford.

Honorary degree recipients included Ziauddin Yousafzai, education activist and father of Malala Yousafzai; Linda Schuyler, co-creator of the Degrassi television series; opera singer Isabel Bayrakdarian; scholar Natalie Zemon Davis; entrepreneur Aziz Bhaloo; Lutheran leader Martin Junge; and Mohawk language preservationist Brian Maracle.

The university also presented alumnus and member of the Laurier Board of Governors Farouk Ahamed (BBA ’80) with the Distinguished Governor’s Award.

Yousafzai accepted his honorary degree June 11 on the Waterloo campus. An advocate for girls’ education, Yousafzai resisted threats from the Taliban and inspired his daughter Malala to promote the right to education for children.

During his address to the convocation ceremony, Yousafzai reminded the graduands of their responsibilities as global citizens in today’s world.

“Gone are the days when countries and continents are isolated,” he said. “We must be mindful of our responsibility to take care of all of Mother Earth. We may be Canadians, we may Aussies, we may be Pakistani, but above all we are children of Mother Earth. I hope you will take this responsibility to have this Earth and to feel for those who are suffering.”

Maracle, an advocate for the preservation of the Kanyen’kehaka (Mohawk) language, received his honorary degree during the June 16 ceremony in Brantford. Known for contributing Aboriginal voices on Aboriginal issues, Maracle has written for The Globe and Mail, hosted the
CBC Radio program “Our Native Land”, and is the author of several books about Aboriginal stories.

During his speech to the graduates, Maracle noted the importance of recognizing efforts First Nations people are making to reclaim their culture in the wake of such mistreatments as Canada’s residential school system.

“No one has been untouched by residential schools, the devastating effects have lasted generations. The question is what is to be done about this,” said Maracle. “For our part, it means we must re-double our efforts to strengthen our language, culture and tradition. For you, the rest of Canada, it means you must re-double your efforts to support us. Strengthening us means strengthening you.”

Maracle concluded by addressing the graduates directly, leaving them with two Mohawk words, one reminding them to “be thankful” for everything they have, and another telling them to have “a good mind” through all the challenges they may face.

Video from all ceremonies is available at ustream.tv/channel/wlu-spring-convocation-2015.

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**A behind-the-scenes look at convocation**

**Hundreds of volunteers, months of planning help ceremonies run smoothly**

By Kimberly Elworthy

At 7 a.m. Julie Pong, acting manager of Ceremonies and Events, begins convocation week daring to take on the day without coffee. “I don’t drink coffee; I’m running on a natural high!” she says. Pong is hoping to get five hours of sleep per night this week. With 12 ceremonies, 321 volunteers, 9,100 guests, seven honorary degree recipients and 3,000 graduands over two campuses — there’s a lot riding on the planning and execution of Laurier’s largest event of the year: spring convocation.

For the small team of four staff members — three in Waterloo, one in Brantford — convocation planning begins a year in advance and requires an impressive amount of collaboration across campuses. With many departments at Laurier involved in the planning and execution, Pong says each one has their own expertise and knows what they’re doing.

“I know it’s going to be a success because it’s so collaborative. It takes a lot of stress off me,” she says. “In the end, if families have had a memorable day, then we’ve met our goal.”

On Laurier’s Waterloo campus, physical resources sets up the stage in the Athletic Complex and over 1,000 chairs for guests; food services caters each reception; the registrar’s office calculates the students qualified to graduate; and printing services and CPAM produce the invitations, programs, posters and alumni handbooks.

Everyone on campus works to minimize any hiccups to make a stress-free day for students and their parents — this is a time that should be purely celebratory.
The hundreds of staff and faculty volunteers start their shifts at 8 a.m., some donning robes and hoods, to tackle the many different tasks at hand. Some volunteer roles are largely traditional, such as the academic procession. Faculty members dress in academic regalia. The bedel is armed with the university mace — a staff covered in provincial and university crests and topped with a crown mounted with jewels — and leads the platform party, a group that includes the chancellor, president, faculty and staff members and honorary degree recipients, into each ceremony. Other roles are purely logistical. Volunteers are busy backstage organizing students in line, finding their robes and hoods, answering questions from guests, helping families find their seats and congratulating new graduates.

“Customer service and the experience for students and guests is the top priority. Our guests leave with the feeling that it was a great day,” says Sondra Schwartz, acting director of university relations. “The parking, sound, seating, family pictures — ensuring that the whole experience is memorable is our focus.”

Creating a great experience also means constantly pushing for improvements to enhance the day and keep up with the times. Shortening ceremonies, streaming the ceremonies live online and projecting social media tweets are recent changes that make it an extra special experience for guests and students. Pong was also excited to launch the online robe rental service for students this year, which helped graduates book their robes in advance of arrival. At Laurier Brantford, Beth Sanders, events and supports specialist, is thrilled to host more than 500 graduates and their guests in the historic Sanderson Centre. Teams of volunteers take on many of the same roles as those in Waterloo as Laurier’s convocation takes centre stage in downtown Brantford. The graduands walk in a procession, led by a bag piper, along Dalhousie St. from the Research and Academic Centre to the Sanderson Centre.

“The Sanderson Centre facility here really impresses parents. It’s a spectacular space and we’re fortunate that it’s so close to campus. It’s beautiful to enjoy the day — the steps of the Carnegie Building are always full of graduates,” she says.

Planning has already begun for next year’s spring convocation. The major change will be transitioning into hosting the Waterloo ceremonies in the new Global Innovation Exchange Building on Laurier’s Waterloo campus. The building’s high-tech, 1,000-seat auditorium will be an exciting new venue for future celebrations, but will also bring new challenges and opportunities.

“You have to be ready for change,” says Pong. “It’ll be a whole new experience next year.”