

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



**Contact: Julia Ann Easley**  
**WLU Information Officer**  
**(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070**

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### **West Indies women to receive Canadian honorary degrees**

*Waterloo, CANADA (April 6)* — The Governor General of Barbados, the executive director of Street Kids International, a retired Canadian publisher, and a Toronto librarian will receive honorary degrees at Wilfrid Laurier University's spring convocation ceremonies May 27 and 28.

Dame Nita Barrow, who will address convocation, and Rita Cox will receive honorary doctor of letters degrees at the ceremony beginning at 1:15 p.m. on Friday, May 27.

Peter Dalglish, who will address convocation, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree, and Jack McClelland will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree at the ceremony beginning at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 28.

About 1,575 graduands will receive degrees and diplomas over the two days. Among them will be about 55 part-time students who will fly in from Trinidad and Tobago to receive diplomas in business administration at the ceremony on May 27. For the first time, the ceremonies will be in the Mutual Arena at the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

#### **Dame Nita Barrow**

Dame Nita has been Governor General of Barbados since 1990. In a public career spanning almost 50 years, she has promoted the objectives of the United Nations, made a lasting contribution to health care around the world, been involved in the struggle against apartheid, and advanced the rights of women.

Dame Nita has been nursing adviser to the Pan American Health Organization, health consultant to the World Health Organization, president of the World Council of Churches 1983-91, president of the World YWCA 1975-83, World President International Council of Adult Education 1982-90, and a member of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons' mission to South Africa in 1986.

Her service has been recognized in several countries with awards. In 1980, she was made Dame of St. Andrew and in 1990, Dame of St. Michael and St. George.

Dame Nita's early nursing career included work in Trinidad and Tobago as a registered midwife and later as a WHO nursing adviser working on a project for the improvement of nursing schools throughout the Caribbean.

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### **Rita Cox**

As head of the Parkdale branch of the Toronto Public Library since 1972, Cox has initiated numerous community programs later adopted throughout Toronto's library system. Many have fostered literacy and reading skills.

Cox has also helped promote the arts and multiculturalism through her service with community, city, and provincial bodies including the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship.

The native of Trinidad and Tobago has helped revive the art of story-telling in Canada and she is well known for her interpretations of West Indian folklore and stories from diverse cultures.

Cox heads the library's Black Heritage and West Indian collection of books and audio-visual materials, one of the most important Black resource collections in Canada.

### **Peter Dalglish**

Dalglish, trained as a lawyer, is the founder and executive director of Street Kids International, one of the leading organizations in the world working with street children.

The Toronto-based Street Kids recently received the first Peter F. Drucker Award for Canadian non-profit innovation in recognition of the success of its Karate Kids program. The 22-minute video warning about the dangers of AIDS is now used by educators in more than 100 countries. A second cartoon on substance abuse, is in production.

From 1985 to 1987, Dalglish worked in Sudan as a field worker for the United Nations and served as co-ordinator of the UNICEF's Sudan emergency unit. He organized Sudan's first technical training school for street children.

In 1987 Dalglish received the Vanier Award and in 1989 was chosen as one of the 10 outstanding young people of the world by the Junior Chamber International.

### **Jack McClelland**

McClelland, now retired, made a notable contribution to the publishing and marketing of Canadian literature through McClelland and Stewart Ltd. President of the company his father founded from 1954 until his retirement in 1987, McClelland published many Canadian best-sellers such as Pierre Berton's *The National Dream* (1970) and Peter C. Newman's *The Canadian Establishment* (1975).

Through the New Canadian Library Series and the Carleton Library Series, the company made accessible classic works in Canadian literature, history, and social sciences, and greatly aided the growth of Canadian studies.

With about 5,500 full-time and 2,900 part-time students, Wilfrid Laurier University is one of Canada's most select universities. It offers undergraduate programs in business and economics, music, and arts and science; it has doctoral programs in social work and geography and nine programs at the master's level .