

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Laurier to award four honorary degrees at convocation ceremonies

Waterloo (May 27) — 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 46 part-time students from Trinidad and Tobago who will 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.

(More)

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 has built and now 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, focusing on the issue of substance abuse, is now 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.

McClelland was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1976.

Dame Ruth Nita Barrow

Perhaps because of her birth on St. Lucy, a Caribbean island which affords vistas extending to the horizon, Her Excellency Dame Ruth Nita Barrow has always looked outward.

From the outset of her career in health-care services, Dame Nita exhibited an interest in how things were done elsewhere. Thus, she qualified as a registered nurse in Barbados in 1941, became a registered mid-wife in Trinidad, moved to Canada to take a Public Health Diploma at the University of Toronto, travelled to Scotland to take a Nursing Education Diploma from Edinburgh University, and completed a B.Sc. (Nursing) at Columbia University in New York.

While she worked for many years in Jamaica, where she was successively Sister Tutor at the Kingston Hospital of Nursing, Matron of the University College Hospital, and from 1956 to 1963 Principal Nursing Officer of Jamaica, Dame Nita continued to take a larger view and to reach out. She became a prominent voice in the world in matters relating to health care and health education. Health care, she has said, is a political issue. Good health frees people for social and economic development. Holding this view, she naturally gravitated to working with governments which could influence public policy. From 1964 to 1971 she served as the Nursing Advisor to the Pan American Health Organization, providing advice to 16 Caribbean governments. Her advice led to a comprehensive restructuring of health care services.

A succession of international positions followed. In the 1970s Dame Nita worked as Associate Director, then Director of the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches. In 1986, she was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations.

Beyond her role in public health education and health care, Dame Nita has also devoted her considerable energies and talents to fostering the conditions necessary for spiritual and social health. Her service has included a long association with the Young Women's Christian Association which culminated in her appointment as President of the World YWCA from 1975 to 1983. She was Convenor of Forum '85, held in conjunction with the Nairobi World Conference of Non-Governmental Women's Organizations to review the United Nations' "Decade for Women." In 1986, she was a member of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons' mission to South Africa to address the issue of apartheid. She has also served as President of the World Council of Churches and as President of the International Council for Adult Education.

In 1990, Barbados appointed Dame Nita Governor General, the first woman to hold the position, a fitting tribute to a life of commitment and service to the people of the Caribbean. However, her contributions have been recognized in many parts of the world. She is the recipient of many honorary degrees from several countries. She is the recipient of the Caricom Award for Women and the Caribbean Prize for Peace through the Struggle for Justice. In 1980, she was named Dame of St. Andrew, and in 1990 she was named Dame of St. Michael and St. George.

For a life of distinguished and practical professional and community service which has benefited both individuals and communities in many ways, Wilfrid Laurier University is proud to honour Dame Nita Barrow by awarding her the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

Rita Marjorie Cox

The person we are honouring today is a woman of energy, enthusiasm, eloquence, excellence, humility and, perhaps above all, a woman of passion — a passion for learning and a passion for people.

Originally from Trinidad, Rita Cox is head librarian of the Parkdale Public Library in Toronto. She is renowned for her work in literacy and also for her artistry as a story teller. Over a twenty year period Dr. Cox has painstakingly developed a Black and Caribbean book and record collection, the finest collection of its kind in Canada. In 1993 she received an honorary Doctor of Letters from York University and was also the first recipient of the Ontario Library Association Guild Award for her outstanding library work with children. In 1991 she was awarded the Ontario Folk Arts Foundation Fellowship for Storytelling. She has also been a recipient of the Soroptomist International Award, the Kay Livingston Award by the Black Women's Congress, and the City of Toronto Award of Merit to name only a very few.

As a pioneer in the literacy movement in Ontario, Rita Cox has established at least nine innovative programs for both children and adults. Recognizing that in a literate society the written word is a source of power, Rita Cox has also encouraged a focus on literacy as a women's issue.

According to Dr. Cox, "A librarian's work is to share stories ... it's an important way of linking the word and the book and the people." Because of her belief that storytelling is an essential tool in developing literacy, Dr. Cox's efforts have significantly contributed to Toronto's position as an important centre in the renaissance of the art of storytelling.

Rita Cox's accomplishments can perhaps best be summed up by her own description of a public library as "a place for continuing education, a place for recreation, a place where we empower people: people who can read, people who cannot read: people who otherwise don't have access to places of learning ...". Rita Cox has enriched the lives of preschoolers, senior citizens, psychiatric patients, "down and outers" and an array of persons of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. The tribute, which is perhaps most indicative of the kind of person we are honouring today, was a party given for her last January by the residents of the Parkdale community. Such an outpouring of affection and respect on the part of a neighbourhood surely demonstrates the place of library in its community as well as the philosophy of the librarian who is so honoured.

I have been told that Dr. Cox often ends a story by saying: "And I jump on the wire, and the wire bend, and that's the way my story end." And so too this "story" ends and I am proud and honoured to present Rita Marjorie Cox for the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

Peter John Dalglish

Peter Dalglish is the Founder and Director of Street Kids International in Toronto. In 1987 he received the Vanier Award, and in 1989, at the age of 32, he was chosen one of ten outstanding young people of the world by the Junior Chamber International. He was the first Canadian to receive the Peter F. Drucker Award for Non-Profit Innovation. Today he is being honoured by Laurier in recognition of his advocacy and leadership in bringing education, health and medical programs to children all over the world.

Peter Dalglish grew up in London, Ontario and attended Upper Canada College in Toronto before taking an undergraduate degree at Stanford. He attended Dalhousie Law School and was called to the Bar in 1985. While he was articling with a law firm in Halifax, he was moved by TV news reports showing the plight of starving children in Ethiopia. He set to work organizing an airlift of food and medical supplies. Travelling to Africa himself, his life changed. Working in a Sudanese refugee camp and having to bury dozens of children, he experienced profound doubts about returning to Canada to work as a lawyer. He saw the possibility of a different future—one that was more immediate. A year later he took on the directorship of the UNICEF Emergency Unit in Khartoum for two years. This involved coordinating efforts for providing food, shelter and medicine to children in isolated communities on both sides of the civil war.

It was during this time in Khartoum that Peter Dalglish found some boys breaking into his Land Rover and the idea for Street Kids International was born. He suddenly saw a potential workforce in the population of young thieves, beggars and housebreakers who roamed the streets of Khartoum. Instead of giving handouts, Dalglish gave them jobs. He established the Technical Training School turning knowledgeable street kids into mechanics, welders and electricians. He put others to work as bicycle couriers. The Street Kids courier program has been extremely successful because it promotes self-sufficiency and because children are learning essential social and business skills without being dependent. In addition to the first programs in Khartoum and Bangalore, India, there are now branch operations in Zambia, Tanzania, South Africa, and the Dominican Republic. The work of Street Kids International now involves war-affected children, children in institutions, and street children—of which there are an estimated 40 million.

The organization gained world-wide recognition with the highly successful production of Karate Kids, an animated film about AIDS, developed in cooperation with the National Film Board of Canada and the World Health Organization. It is currently distributed in 20 languages in 100 countries. A second film, now in production in Toronto, deals with the issue of substance abuse by children.

Peter Dalglish has combined the skills and training of a lawyer with a commitment to helping children at risk to effect change in the global community. Discipline and hard work are qualities he values and ones that have shaped his life. In a world where young men and women crave inspired leadership and a sense of responsibility, Peter Dalglish is a model for all of us.

John Gordon McClelland

As Canadians confront ever more serious challenges to political stability and cultural survival they will find inspiration in the life and career of the "Canadian Publisher Jack McClelland.

Fifty years ago, on the eve of the liberation of France, Jack McClelland as a member of the RCNVR, was involved in the vital task of safeguarding the D-Day invasion route in a motor torpedo boat. He achieved his own command and retired in the fall of 1945 as a Lieutenant-Commander.

Upon his return to Canada he completed a BA at the University of Toronto and in the fall of 1946 joined McClelland and Stewart. After two years he was Editor in Chief, in five more, President. As he has said many times, "It is an amazing fact of life that you progress so much more quickly if your father happens to own the company."

To be President and CEO of McClelland Stewart was no sinecure. Jack McClelland was committed to publishing Canadian books — books which would illuminate and inform our collective experience while celebrating the individual genius of Canada's great poets and novelists. Earle Birney, Leonard Cohen, Margaret Lawrence, Mordecai Richler, Gabrielle Roy, Margaret Atwood — the list is a Who's Who of Canadian cultural life.

He did not limit his energies to imaginative literature. McClelland and Stewart is also identified with Pierre Berton, Farley Mowat and Peter C. Newman. The world of academic scholarship owes much to his creative efforts. The New Canadian Library and the Centennial histories are well known to the educated public but he also reached out to a younger generation of scholars in his commitment to the Canadian social history series which brought new interpretations of the rich diversity of Canadian life to university students.

Jack McClelland retired for a second time in 1987 but the fire which burned within him, his hope for Canada and his pride in being Canadian is undimmed. The contribution he has made to enriching and enlivening our cultural life allows us to say, without exaggeration, that part of our pride in Canada is due to his efforts to help us define and redefine our various identities. As Canadians we are proud of Jack McClelland.

Wilfrid Laurier University



Founded 1911

Hamid Noori **University Research Professor, 1993-94**

To recognize the contributions and achievements of our faculty in research and scholarship, the position of University Research Professor was created in 1988. This award provides the recipient with a one-year leave from teaching and administrative responsibilities to pursue new scholarly endeavours on a full-time basis. Today, we honour the University Research Professor for 1993-94, Dr. Hamid Noori of the Department of Business.

Prof. Noori, who received an MBA degree in 1977 and a Ph.D in 1981, began his career at Laurier in 1983. In the intervening years, he has received over \$650,000 in research grants from the two major research councils in Canada, and has published three books, over 40 articles in peer-reviewed publications, three software packages, and 14 cases. This scholarly record has led to an increasing number of requests to speak at important international meetings in his three areas of expertise: the management of new technology; strategic operations management; and, global manufacturing strategies.

Dr. Noori serves on the editorial boards of three major research journals, and is the founding director of the Research Centre for the Management of Advanced Technologies, one of Laurier's four research centres. Since its inception in 1985, the centre, under Dr. Noori's leadership, has hosted a major national conference; conducted numerous workshops and seminars for local manufacturers interested in adopting and implementing new technology and total quality management; and, served as a consultant for regional managers and manufacturers.

During his year as University Research Professor, Dr. Noori will complete research on the establishment of multiple manufacturing plants in a global manufacturing system, and develop a set of performance measures to evaluate the benefits of adopting advanced operating technology in the manufacturing process.

Graduands, ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating Prof. Noori as he receives a framed certificate to commemorate being honoured as the University Research Professor for 1993-94.

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Office of Institutional Relations

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