

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Alison Wearing shares her experience in lecture on world travel *Laurier alum and author tells of visits to Ecuador, Iran, Serbia, Thailand and more*

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Contact: Deborah Currie
Cultural Affairs Coordinator
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3800

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University graduate Alison Wearing will discuss her travels to some of the world’s more interesting locales at 7 p.m. tomorrow in Laurier’s Paul Martin Centre. An award-winning writer of magazine articles and author of the best-selling book *Honeymoon in Purdah*, Wearing will outline her experiences and insights in a lecture titled *A Traveller and her Tales*.

Czechoslovakia after the fall of Communism, Serbia during the Bosnian war, a Palestinian village on Israel’s West Bank after the Intifada, Iran under the rule of Islamic fundamentalists, Russia, China, Ecuador, Thailand and North Vietnam – Wearing has visited them all. “I believe in experiential learning,” says Wearing, who considers herself a writer who travels, not a travel writer. “I’m a writer who happens to write about things that take place in other countries.”

Wearing has been drawn to the unusual, searching for the truths of countries like Serbia and Iran – a search that she says often has little to do with global politics, but everything to do with people.

“We are very fortunate to have Alison Wearing return to Laurier to share her perspective on her global experiences and the people she’s encountered along the way,” says Deborah Currie, coordinator of Cultural Affairs at Laurier. “Through exposure to the thoughts and impressions of a speaker such as Wearing, students become aware that there are unusual and unpredictable opportunities beyond Laurier.”

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While a student at Laurier, Wearing participated in the exchange program with Philipps-Universität in Germany for a year. After graduating in 1989, she financed more travel by teaching English, doing data entry and working in restaurants. Home from China and feeling like “a sponge who’d absorbed too much,” she decided to write about her experiences.

A series of articles was published in such diverse publications as the *Globe and Mail*, *Queen’s Quarterly*, *Border Crossings* and *Journey Prize Anthology*. *Honeymoon in Purdah*, her book about travelling in Iran, has been published in five countries, was a national best-seller in Canada and was recently released in the United States.

Wearing’s lecture is open to the public and free of charge. *Honeymoon in Purdah* will be available for sale, and a book-signing and reception will follow the lecture.