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3 major projects await

WLU's research professor

Dr. Kenneth Hewitt, professor of geography at Wilfrid Laurier University, has been named the university's first University Research Professor, and will be free from all teaching and most faculty duties for a year, beginning July 1.

During that time, he will complete the writing of a final report on the snow and ice-hydrology project that has been under way in Pakistan for more than three years, and will involve him in another visit to the site among the towering Himalayas.

The \$1.3 million project's main purpose is to help Pakistan in managing the water that is needed in the country by some 81 million people, and comes mainly from the Himalayas, which often provide either far too much water, or far too little.

A second research project, undertaken with a three-year grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, will be an in-depth study of the effect of bombing on Europe during the Second World War.

Hewitt is considered one of the world's top researchers in the area of research into disasters, both natural and man-made, and came to Canada originally as a research fellow with the federal Emergency Measures Organization.

"It is only in the past few years that archival material has become available on the effects of bombings during the Second World War," Hewitt said. He will travel to Europe in the fall to begin a study of diaries, reports, photos and other material relating to the effects of bombings on urban areas and the people who lived there.

One initial belief is that much of the Allied bombing had very little effect on the war effort, even though housing was hard hit, he said.

A third research project, undertaken at the request of the Canadian Association of Geographers, will see Hewitt undertake an examination of various hazards in Canada, including earthquakes, floods and tornadoes, and man-made hazards such as industrial pollution and other threats to the health of Canadians.

Dr. Russell Muncaster, academic vice-president, said he made the appointment from among the applications he received from some of the top researchers at Laurier.

The appointment comes at an excellent time for Hewitt, since it will allow him to concentrate his efforts on the three research projects, and make him more available for the implementation of a new honors degree in physical geography the following year.

Muncaster said a replacement for Hewitt during his term as research professor will be financed by the university's academic development fund.

Hewitt, who has been a faculty member at Laurier since 1976, received his master's degree from Cambridge and his doctorate from the University of London.