

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



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

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### **Jannah Mather appointed dean of social work at Laurier**

**Waterloo, Ont. (Sept. 12)** — Jannah Mather, associate dean of social work at Florida State University, has been appointed dean of the faculty of social work at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. The five-year term is effective Sept. 12

Mather will provide leadership to one of the top faculties of social work in Canada. Well known for its emphases on clinical and community social work, the faculty has about 200 master's and 25 doctoral students. The university's Centre for Social Welfare Studies conducts applied social welfare research and focuses on program development, management, and evaluation in social agencies.

Mather succeeds Frank Turner, who served as interim dean following the death of Shankar Yelaja in September 1992. Turner is now director of international activities for the university.

"Dr. Mather brings with her a wealth of experience in practice, administration, and scholarship," Rowland Smith, vice-president: academic at Laurier, said in making the announcement. "She is not only a prominent member of professional associations in her field, but has also received teaching awards from three separate institutions."

The award-winning professor and administrator has taught at five institutions and had an active practice specializing in women, children, and relationships. Her current research interests include families and children, and social work education.

Mather has been associate dean of the school of social work at Florida State and director of its master's program since January 1993. She joined the Tallahassee university as an assistant professor in 1986 and became an associate professor and director of off-campus social work programs in 1991.

Mather was field practicum co-ordinator for the school of social work at the University of Missouri from 1983 to 1986. At Indiana State University, she served as director of the social work program for the department of sociology and social work from

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1981 to 1983, and as practicum co-ordinator for the department for the 1930-81 academic year. She also taught at the University of Illinois and St. Mary-of-the-Woods College.

Mather received an administrative commendation from the school of social work at Florida State earlier this year and one of the university's outstanding teacher awards in 1990. She was also recognized as the school's professor of the year in 1989.

At the University of Missouri-Columbia, she was twice honored with the outstanding faculty award for its school of social work. The department of sociology and social work at Indiana State University honored her for outstanding teaching achievement from 1979 to 1983.

Editor since 1991 of the *Journal of Law and Social Work* at Florida State University, Mather is writing a book about child welfare for Brooks/Cole Publishing Co. of California, the parent company of Nelson Canada.

She has published on social work education, social work and the law; family practice, single-parent fathers, adolescent group treatment, treatment intervention in child abuse emergency shelters, the ethics and legalities of social work with clients who have AIDS, and the role of the social worker in cases of capital punishment.

Mather is serving a three-year term as commissioner of the national Council of Social Work Education and as chair of its standards training committee. She was a member of the state board of directors for the National Association of Social Workers for the last four years.

Interested in international social work, Mather helped establish the first non-profit family services agency in St. Vincent and has been the keynote speaker three times for the national social work organizations of St. Vincent and Bermuda.

Since 1991, Mather has had a clinical psychiatric social work practice specializing in women, children, and relationships. Her experience also includes work as a psychiatric social worker with the Tallahassee Memorial Psychiatric Center and the Charter Hillside Hospital in Columbia, Missouri; consulting and clinical social work with Family Services of Terre Haute, Indiana; organizing and therapy work with the Family Crisis Center, also in Terre Haute; and full-time social work with Family Services of Greater Toledo, Ohio.

A native of Indiana, Mather received a doctorate in social work from the University of Illinois in 1985. She earned a master of social work from the University of Michigan in 1979 and a bachelor of social work from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, in 1977.