

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Laurier to honor four at spring convocation ceremonies

Waterloo, Ont. (April 29) — Wilfrid Laurier University will present honorary degrees to four people at its spring convocation ceremonies at the Kitchener Auditorium on Saturday, May 29.

Ombudsman of Ontario **Roberta Jamieson** and German entrepreneur **Hans Viessmann** will receive honorary doctor of laws degrees at the 9:45 a.m. ceremony. Jamieson will address convocation.

At the 2:15 p.m. ceremony, Canada's ambassador to Germany **Paul Heinbecker** will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree while liturgical artist and scholar Nancy-**Lou Patterson** will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree. Heinbecker will speak to that gathering.

About 1,385 graduands will receive degrees and diplomas at the two ceremonies. Degrees and diplomas for social work, business, and music will be presented at the morning ceremony while those for arts and science will be presented at the afternoon ceremony.

Heinbecker, who played football as a Golden Hawk before graduating from Waterloo Lutheran University in 1965, has had a distinguished career in public service. In 1992, he was appointed Canada's ambassador to Germany.

Earlier, Heinbecker served as assistant secretary to the federal cabinet for foreign and defence policy and as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's chief foreign policy adviser. His postings have taken him to Ankara (Turkey), Stockholm, Paris, and Washington.

Ombudsman of Ontario, Jamieson is active in the development and promotion of non-adversarial mechanisms and procedures for the resolution of conflicts.

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Prior to her appointment as ombudsman, she was commissioner of the Indian Commission of Ontario, which facilitated the resolution of issues identified by native groups in Ontario and the federal and provincial governments. She also served as a member of the Parliamentary Task Force on Indian Self-Government.

Last year, the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution presented her with the first Mary Parker Follett Award in recognition of her contribution to the field. In 1991, she was named a Goodman Fellow by the faculty of law at the University of Toronto.

Viessmann is an entrepreneur whose family boiler business, Viessmann Werke, has grown from 35 employees in 1947 to 5,000 today in 13 plants, including one in Waterloo. Known for its innovation, the company holds 1,300 patents and was the first producer of high efficiency boilers in Europe.

A strong advocate for university and industry co-operation, he is the treasurer of an association dedicated to helping finance universities through private donations. He also sponsors a scholarship for students travelling to Germany for their studies.

Viessmann has been honored by universities, professional associations, and all levels of government in Germany for distinguished service.

Patterson is a widely known liturgical artist and one of Canada's foremost scholars in folk art. Her designs — in stained glass, wood, metal, and textiles — are in numerous places of worship in Canada, the United States, and England.

Patterson is a prolific writer and speaker on subjects relating to Canadian native art; Canadian Swiss-German and Dutch-German Mennonite folk art and culture; and mythopoeic art and literature. Her most recent novel, *The Painted Hallway*, was published in 1992.

Now retired, Patterson taught fine arts for 26 years at the University of Waterloo, where she founded the department of fine arts and twice served as its chair.