

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## Four honorees join Laurier's newest graduands at convocation

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**Contact: Michael Strickland**  
**Media Relations Officer**  
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070

WATERLOO – A leading Canadian industrialist, a noted music innovator, an American academic leader and a former Canadian diplomat will be among the 1200 recipients of degrees from Wilfrid Laurier University later this week.

When the newest Laurier graduands gather for convocation ceremonies at the **Waterloo Recreation Complex** at 1:30 p.m. on **June 5** and **6**, they will be joined by four people selected to receive honorary degrees. This year's honorary recipients are:

- Maureen Kempston Darkes, president and general manager, General Motors of Canada
- Thomas Rolston, artistic director, Summer Music Program, Banff Centre for the Arts
- Paula Brownlee, former president, Association of American Colleges and Universities
- Derek Burney, chair and chief executive officer, Bell Canada International

Kempston Darkes and Rolston will receive their degrees on Friday with the graduating classes from the Faculty of Music, Faculty of Social Work, the School of Business and Economics and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Brownlee and Burney's degrees will be conferred on Saturday, during convocation ceremonies for graduates from the Faculty of Arts and Science.

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The honorees were chosen because of the success they have had in a field related to an area of study at Laurier.

**Maureen Kempston Darkes** is president and general manager of General Motors of Canada. When she was named president in 1994, Kempston Darkes became one of the highest-ranking female executives in GM's history. She joined GM Canada's legal staff in 1975 and held a series of progressively higher positions before becoming vice-president of corporate affairs in 1991. She was appointed by the federal government to the Free Trade Agreement Automotive Select Panel in 1989 and to the Transportation Equipment Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade in 1994.

**Thomas Rolston** is currently the artistic director of the Summer Music Program at the Banff Centre for the Arts. Throughout his car, he has been a performer, an educator, a creator of new programs and an administrator. From helping found the University of Alberta String Quartet, to introducing the Suzuki method of violin instruction to Canada, to founding the Society for Talent Education, Rolston's influence has been widespread. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music for his contribution to music in Canada.

**Paula Brownlee** has had a prominent career as a chemist, university president and, from 1990 to 1997, as president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). She received her BA from Somerville College at Oxford University in 1957 and received her D.Phil. in organic chemistry in 1959. Over the next 20 years, she held a series of posts as research chemist, lecturer and dean. Between 1981 and 1990, Brownlee was president and professor of Chemistry at Hollins College.

**Derek Burney** held many distinguished posts over his thirty-year career in the Department of External Affairs. He entered the foreign service in 1963 and was appointed ambassador to Korea in 1978. He became assistant deputy minister for United States Affairs in 1983 and associate deputy minister for External Affairs in 1985. He was chief of staff to the Prime Minister from 1988 to December 1989. As Canada's ambassador to the United States between 1989 and 1993, Burney participated in negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement. In 1993, he became executive vice-president international at Bell Canada Enterprises and now serves as chairman, president and CEO of Bell Canada International.