

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Official Olympic lecturer will share insider's experience of games
John A. Lucas will offer an historic perspective on recent Olympic developments

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WATERLOO – The bidding process, allegations of corruption, resignations: an IOC-sponsored Olympic lecturer will tackle any topic raised by the audience following his formal presentation on the history of the Olympic games. John A. Lucas will deliver an address titled *The Olympic Games / The Olympic Movement: Past, Present and Future* at 7 **p.m.** on **Tuesday, January 26** in Laurier's **Paul Martin Centre**.

Believed to be the only person to run 10,000 metres inside each Olympic stadium on the day before the opening of nine summer games, Lucas has published over 200 scholarly articles on the games. He has also published an array of books that includes *The Modern Olympic Games* (1980) and *The Future of the Olympic Games* (1992).

"Dr. Lucas has enjoyed a long and unique association with the Olympics," says assistant professor Stephen Wenn, who organized the visit to Laurier, "and the stories he tells are a pure pleasure. He is both entertaining and incredibly enlightening."

Lucas's official involvement with the Olympics began in 1952 when he placed 11th in the U.S. 10,000-metre trials. He was the U.S. Olympic team manager for the Rome games in 1960, the team's business manager for Tokyo in 1964 and an observer for the U.S. Olympic Committee in Mexico in 1968.

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He went to Germany as a correspondent for *The New York Herald Tribune* in 1972, covered the Montreal games for *Track and Field* in 1976, and was an assistant to the sports editor of *U.S. News and World Report*, *Time* and *Newsweek* for the 1980 games in Moscow. He authored one-third of *The Olympic Book* for the 1988 Seoul games.

In June of 1993, IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch named Lucas an official IOC lecturer and the committee sponsors his lecture travels. During the 1996 Atlanta Games, Lucas received The Olympic Order.

Lucas was a professor of kinesiology and track coach until his retirement from Penn State University. He holds degrees in sport science, sport history, and American and European history from a handful of U.S. universities.

Note: Dr. Lucas will be available for interviews throughout the morning of January 26 and during select times in the afternoon. To arrange an interview, please contact Michael Strickland at (519) 884-0710 ext. 3070.