

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier to honor business leader and social worker at convocation *John Pollock and Frank Turner to receive honorary doctor-of-laws degrees on October 28*

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**Contact: Dr. Robert G. Rosehart
President and Vice-Chancellor
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2250**

**or Michael Strickland
Manager, Media Relations & Information
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070**

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will bestow honorary degrees on prominent Canadian businessman John Pollock and Frank Turner, a worldwide leader in social work and former dean of Laurier’s social-work program. Both will receive honorary doctor-of-laws degrees and address graduands at fall convocation on Sunday, October 28.

“We are very pleased to recognize two leaders from such diverse fields during convocation ceremonies for all our faculties,” explained president and vice-chancellor Robert G. Rosehart. “Laurier is a place where students benefit from having business, social work, music, arts and sciences teach and research in close proximity. I believe the graduating students will gain from hearing the convocation addresses of these two worthy recipients.”

John Pollock is the third-generation family member to run Electrohome Ltd. Founded by Arthur Pollock in 1907, Electrohome evolved from a manufacturer of phonographs, radios, furniture and televisions, to a maker of high-resolution projections systems, owner of media properties – including CKCO-TV – and a holding company.

Pollock received a bachelor of applied science from the University of Toronto and a master of business administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He is a past member of the University of Waterloo’s board of governors, a past chairman of the advisory board of the University of Western Ontario, and was a panel member of the 1998 and 1999 Chancellor’s Summit at Laurier.

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He is also a long-time friend to Laurier, involved in many community initiatives and a strong supporter of the arts. He has been associated with the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery as a director and major funder, and is a past president of the K-W Art Gallery. He also serves as a board member of the Grand River Foundation and a director of Junior Achievement of Canada. In 2000, the Pollock family donated \$5 million to the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation.

Frank Turner is recognized as one of the most – if not the most – outstanding social work theorists, author, editors, educators, practitioners and leaders in Canada in the latter half of the 20th century. He has been a visiting professor, lecturer and keynote speaker around the world. He is also the series editor of 14 books and author of 10 book chapters, as well as innumerable professional journal articles and major reports.

He joined Waterloo Lutheran University as an associate professor of social work in 1966, took a leave of absence from 1968 to 1969 to set up the social work program at Memorial University, was dean of social work at Lutheran/Laurier from 1969 to 1979, was acting vice-president: academic in 1974-1975, and went to Laurentian in 1979, where he was vice-president academic and later executive vice-president.

Turner was chairperson and professor in the school of social work at Atkinson College, York University, from 1991 to 1993. From 1993 to 1994, he was the first holder of the Chair for Child Protection at Memorial University. That appointment was made following the Mount Cashel inquiry, in which Turner participated.