

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Laurier honours four exemplary individuals during convocation

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will bestow its highest honour on an academic who introduced Canadian studies to Europe, the president of Canada’s largest labour union, the head of Drayton Entertainment and the chair of Canada’s largest public advocacy group. Jean-Michel Lacroix, Buzz Hargrove, Alex Mustakas and Maude Barlow, respectively, will receive honorary degrees during convocation ceremonies between June 3 and 16.

“Our honorary degree recipients have all made significant contributions in their chosen fields and, as such, stand as examples of what our students can aspire to,” said Bob Rosehart, Laurier president and vice-chancellor. “We are pleased to recognize their accomplishments by bestowing on them our highest honour.”

Jean-Michel Lacroix, rector-chancellor of l’Académie d’Aix-Marseilles in France, will receive an honorary doctor of laws during the convocation ceremony for students in the faculty of arts on June 3. He will deliver a brief address to the graduands shortly after the ceremony begins at 1:15 p.m. in the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.

Lacroix is being recognized for his work in promoting Canadian studies in France and throughout Europe. One of a group of academics who introduced Canadian studies to Europe, he is considered a pre-eminent Canadianist. He was director of the Centre for Canadian Studies in France and of the International Council for Canadian Studies. The Governor General of Canada awarded him the Meritorious Service Medal (civil division) in 2001.

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Buzz Hargrove, national president of the CAW, will receive an honorary doctor of laws during the convocation ceremony for students in business and economics on June 4. He will address the graduands in the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex shortly after the ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

The degree recognizes Hargrove's commitment to economic, social and political issues affecting workers. Hargrove was acclaimed national leader of the CAW in 1992 and has been re-elected every three years. He is the co-author of *Labour of Love: The Fight to Create a More Humane Canada*.

Alex Mustakas, artistic director and CEO of Drayton Entertainment, will receive an honorary doctor of letters during the ceremony for students in science, music, social work and the seminary on June 4. He will deliver a short address after the ceremony begins at 2 p.m. in the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex.

The degree recognizes Mustakas's leadership, artistic and directorial skills, as well as his enormous impact on theatre in this region of Ontario. He has directed more than 50 productions since Drayton's 1991 inauguration. The theatre company has since won the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Arts six times. Mustakas holds a bachelor of arts in economics from Laurier and a master's degree in arts administration from City University in London, England.

Maude Barlow, volunteer national chairperson of the Council of Canadians, will receive an honorary doctor of letters during the ceremony for students from Laurier Brantford on June 16. She will deliver a brief address after the ceremony begins at 3 p.m. in the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts.

The degree recognizes Barlow's long and distinguished career working for the good of Canadians and for her contribution in establishing the council. An Ottawa-based activist, writer and policy critic, she also serves on the board of directors of the International Forum on Globalization. She is the author of 10 books, including a number of bestsellers, on the effects of globalization on social programs education, the media and the environment.