

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Laurier appoints new science dean

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO – Dr. Deborah MacLatchy, a zoologist with extensive research and administrative experience, has been named dean of the faculty of science at Wilfrid Laurier University.

She will begin her five-year term July 1.

MacLatchy has spent the past 13 years at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John, where she is the current dean of science, applied science and engineering. She previously served as director of UNB's International Office.

"Dr. MacLatchy has an excellent record in teaching, research and university administration," said Dr. Sue Horton, Laurier's vice-president, academic. "Her considerable experience initiating research programs, securing funding and working on international projects will be a valuable asset to Laurier's faculty of science, which enjoys a growing reputation for both teaching and research."

MacLatchy said she is thrilled to be coming to Laurier.

"What really attracts me is how committed everyone at Laurier is to offering a quality undergraduate education while at the same time increasing research and graduate programs," she said.

MacLatchy grew up in Nova Scotia and earned a B.Sc. at Acadia University. She did graduate studies at the University of Manitoba, where she earned a PhD in zoology. Her

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research has focused on the effect of various chemicals and pollutants — especially the impact of pulp-and-paper mill effluent — on the health of fish.

MacLatchy has authored or co-authored numerous articles and publications, and has secured significant research funding from many agencies, including NSERC, Environment Canada, and CIDA, among others.

She has also served as an executive of a number of professional organizations, including a term as president of the Canadian Society of Zoologists.

MacLatchy is keenly interested in international development issues and is involved in projects in Cuba and South America.

“Science has always been a global endeavour,” she said. “It is important to manage our own environment, but it is also our responsibility to share our learning and technology with scientists in developing countries.”

MacLatchy also has a reputation for getting involved closer to home. A fitness enthusiast who teaches aerobics, she has won several volunteer awards from the YMCA-YWCA of Saint John. She also sits on the Saint John Board of Trade.

“I’m very interested in making linkages with the community,” she said. “I think ‘town and gown’ relationships are a real opportunity for universities to strengthen their position in the community.”

MacLatchy succeeds Dr. Arthur Szabo as Laurier’s dean of science. Szabo, who has served as dean since 2000, will complete his current term on June 30.