

## NEWS RELEASE



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### Journalist Gwynne Dyer to discuss “A New Middle East” at Laurier Brantford

BRANTFORD – Journalist, columnist, broadcaster and renowned commentator Gwynne Dyer will visit Laurier Brantford as the fourth and final speaker in Laurier’s “Lives of Leadership and Purpose” centennial speaker series. Dyer’s lecture, “A New Middle East,” takes place Thursday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. in room RCW 002 of the Research and Academic Centre, 150 Dalhousie St.

Dyer has written three recent books about the Middle East, including *Ignorant Armies: Sliding into War in Iraq*; *Future: Tense*, and *The Mess They Made: The Middle East After Iraq*. His latest book, *Crawling from the Wreckage*, traces the world’s halting emergence from the past decade, a time marked by exaggerated fears of terrorism, wars in the Middle East, neglect of climate change and financial near-collapse.

“Gwynne Dyer is a well-known and well-respected commentator, and we are very pleased to host him as the final speaker in this series,” said Andrew Robinson, associate professor of Human Rights and Human Diversity at Laurier Brantford. “His decorated career as a journalist, author and historian highlights the inspiring details of his work, and his voice contributes to our understanding of the world we live in.”

Dyer’s lecture looks at the current political landscape in the Middle East, where non-violent democratic revolutions are sweeping through the Arab world. Dyer believes these revolutions are a great advance for liberty, but they don’t solve issues of poverty, and may in fact give rise to Islamist movements.

Laurier Brantford’s “Lives of Leadership and Purpose” speaker series features speakers with experience promoting human rights, social justice, and peace – topics that support the civic engagement, justice and internationalization elements of Laurier’s academic plan. Previous speakers included Debi Goodwin, author of *Citizens of Nowhere*; Anas Aremeyaw Anas, an undercover Ghanaian journalist; and Cathy Crowe, Street Nurse and homeless advocate.

The speaker series celebrates Laurier’s centennial by drawing connections between Laurier’s 100 years of inspiring lives of leadership and purpose, the speakers’ careers as examples of this philosophy and the strength of Laurier Brantford’s Human Rights & Human Diversity, Journalism and Criminology programs as examples of Laurier’s ongoing commitment to its vision.

The event is co-sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the Brantford Campus, and the Human Rights & Human Diversity program. The lecture is free and open to the public. For further information, contact: Andrew Robinson at [arobinson@wlu.ca](mailto:arobinson@wlu.ca) or 519-756-8228 ext. 5743.