Spring 2023 Honorary Degree Recipients

Dr. Garnette Sutherland, LL.D. (Wednesday June 7, 2023, 9:30am)

Dr. Garnette Sutherland, neurosurgeon, scientist, and technology innovator, continues his efforts towards improving health outcomes for Canadians and beyond. In his first appointment at the University of Manitoba, he established an experimental laboratory for the study of neurological disease using MR imaging and spectroscopy. In collaboration with NRC-Canada, he developed the world's first intraoperative MRI system based on a moveable 1.5T magnet. Working with MDA, Brampton ON, to advance precision surgery, Dr. Sutherland developed neuroArm, another world's first image-guided MR-compatible robot for brain surgery. In 2011, Dr. Sutherland was appointed to the Order of Canada for his lifetime achievement in healthcare innovation.

Manjushree Thapa, D. Litt (Monday June 12, 2023, 3:00pm)

Manjushree Thapa is the author of four books of fiction and four books of nonfiction, all centered on contemporary life in her country of birth, Nepal. She has also translated major works of Nepali-language literature into English. Manjushree wrote extensively on the political unrest and human rights atrocities that took place during Nepal's ten-year Maoist insurgency, which lasted from 1996-2006. Many of these writings are anthologized in the essay collection The Lives We Have Lost. Though Manjushree's activism comes mainly through her writing—in the tradition of "engaged literature"—she has also participated directly in several movements for equal rights. The search for ethics critically informs her aesthetics as a writer.

Merna Forster, LL.D. (Tuesday June 13, 2023, 10:00am)

Merna Forster is a historian, author, and educator who became an activist fighting for gender equality on our money. She led the successful national campaign calling for Canadian women to be celebrated on the face of our bank notes, an initiative that resulted in civil rights icon Viola Desmond being honoured on the front of the $10 bill. Merna's campaign also sparked a lively national discussion about noteworthy women in Canadian history, which she encouraged through numerous interviews for television and radio shows and for articles in major newspapers.

Vijaya Kumar Murty, D.Sc. (Tuesday June 13, 2023, 3:00pm)

Kumar Murty received his bachelor's degree from Carleton University and his Doctorate from Harvard University in 1982. Professor Murty's accomplishments cover diverse areas including number theory, algebraic geometry, information security, and mathematical modelling. He has over 150 published articles in leading scholarly journals and has edited or authored about ten books and has two patents. In 2019, Professor
Murty was appointed the Director of the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences. This is a mathematics think-tank that every year attracts about 14,000 researchers from over 100 countries of the world. As Director, he has emphasized the way in which mathematics has shaped, and continues to shape, our world.

**Joy MacPhail, LL.D.** (Wednesday June 14, 2023, 10:00am)

Joy MacPhail graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a B.A. and then attended the London School of Economics in England. She graduated from the LSE in 1978 with a Diploma in Trade Union/Industrial Relations Studies. In 1991 Ms. MacPhail was successful in her first attempt at electoral politics when she was elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Vancouver-Hastings in British Columbia. She was re-elected in 1996 and 2001, before retiring from politics in 2005. During her political career she held many significant portfolios: Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister of Health, Minister of Education, Government House Leader, and Leader of the Opposition, among others. Joy MacPhail is an owner (with her husband) of OUTtv, the world’s longest airing and most successful Gay and Lesbian TV network.

**Jeff & Shelley Parr, LL.D.** (Wednesday June 14, 2023, 3:00pm)

Jeff graduated from Western in 1982 with a BA in Social Science and while at Western was a member of the UWO Marching Band and the Varsity Ski Team. After graduation, Jeff joined Coopers and Lybrand (PWC) and continued his studies at York and Wilfred Laurier Universities. In 1995 Jeff joined Clairvest Group Inc. to partner with Ken Rotman to “restart” Clairvest and over the last 28 years has built Clairvest, with Ken and the team, to be one of the top performing Private Equity managers in North America. Jeff retired as Co-CEO in 2018, remains a Managing Director and is Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Clairvest. In 2020, together with his wife Shelley, they accelerated Western’s goal to become a leader in student mental health by spearheading the start of the Parr Center for Thriving. The Center is focused on training and providing support to better enable and pre-emptively assist students to thrive and succeed in their Education and beyond.

Shelley Parr (nee Alexander) graduated with a diploma in Food, Beverage and Hospitality Management from George Brown College in 1983. She started her career in restaurant management, working with the Hilton and Sheraton Hotels in Toronto. She finished her formal career in hotel sales. She became the Parr home CEO in 1988 and was very active in both her sons’ educations, as a classroom volunteer, extracurricular leader, fundraising leader and DIYer. Philanthropically, Shelley has been active on many committees and fundraisers and most recently has been involved with the Nanny Network, a charity focused on supporting Moms with cancer.
Darryl White, LL.D. (Thursday June 15, 2023, 10:00am)

Darryl was appointed Chief Executive Officer of BMO in 2017. He chairs the bank’s Executive Committee and serves as a director of BMO Financial Group, as well as its U.S. subsidiary, BMO Financial Corp. A long-standing community builder with strong ties to the United Way Centraide movement, Darryl has volunteered for these organizations in Montréal, New York, Chicago, and Toronto. In 2018 Darryl became Co-Chair of the Inclusive Local Economic Opportunity Roundtable, a partnership between BMO and United Way Greater Toronto that brings together business and community leaders to develop approaches to reduce economic disparity in the region. An advocate for BMO’s efforts to ensure a diverse and inclusive workplace, Darryl serves as Chair of Catalyst Canada Advisory Board and member of the Catalyst Board of Directors.

Andrew Chisholm, LL.D. (Thursday June 15, 2023, 3:00pm)

Andy is currently Chair of the Ivey Advisory Board. He spent most of his career at Goldman Sachs & Co, after graduating with an MBA from Ivey Business School in 1985. He was based in London and New York during his 30-year career, where he served Goldman in a variety of progressively more senior leadership roles. Andy is now a member of the Board of Directors of Royal Bank of Canada (currently chairing the risk committee), as well as that of its US Holding Company. He acted as a member of the Canadian Federal government’s Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance and subsequently of the Task Force for Resilient Recovery. He sits on the Board of Evergreen Brickworks, which is focused on sustainable placemaking and urban innovation. He is also a Board Member of MaRS Discovery District, a Canadian innovation hub which in part aims to drive Canadian innovation in Cleantech, biotech and other areas.

Douglas Muzyka, LL.D. (Friday June 16, 2023, 10:00am)

Dr. Douglas Muzyka has bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D degrees from Western University. He completed his doctoral research as the first participant in an exchange between Western and the Université de Technologie de Compiègne in France. While undertaking his research Doug began his career consulting in the French coal industry on synthetic fuels and worked there for several years as a process engineer prior to returning to Canada to begin a long career with E.I. DuPont de Nemours (DuPont). During his professional career, Muzyka has served on advisory boards for universities in Singapore, the US and Canada, as well as on boards of Chambers of Commerce, industry associations and Business Councils on sustainable development in Canada, Mexico, and China. Dr. Muzyka has also recently served as a member of the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada.
Catherine Karakatsanis, LL.D. (Friday June 16, 2023, 3:00pm)

Catherine Karakatsanis is a practicing Professional Engineer and the Chief Operating Officer of Morrison Hershfield. A graduate of Western University with a bachelor and a master’s degree of Engineering Science, Catherine joined Morrison Hershfield after graduating and has had a progressive career starting out as a Structural Engineer and moving successfully through a series of engineering positions. At Morrison Hershfield, Catherine is responsible for operations overseeing nine hundred professionals. Most recently, Catherine became president-elect of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), she is set to be the first woman to hold the position of president in FIDIC’s 110-year history when she takes office later this year. She has also been inducted into the Canadian Academy of Engineering as a ‘Fellow’; inducted into Canada’s Top 100 Most Powerful Women ‘Hall of Fame’ for having received that recognition in four of the categories in which it is bestowed.

Shelley Niro, LL.D. (Wednesday June 21, 2023, 10:00am)

Shelley Niro was born in Niagara Falls New York. Shelley is a member of the Turtle Clan, Bay of Quinte Mohawk Six Nations Grand River Reserve. Niro is a practicing artist, concentrating on painting, photography and film. In 2017 Niro was awarded the Canada Council for the Arts Governor General Award in Visual Art, the Reveal Award from the Hnatyshyn Foundation, Dreamcatcher’s Visual Award and the Scotiabank Photography Award. She became an honorary elder in the Indigenous Curatorial Collective. Niro received an honorary doctorate from the Ontario College of Art and Design University. In 2020 Niro was presented with the Paul de Hueck and Norman Walford Career Achievement Award from the Ontario Arts Foundation. Niro likes to confront serious issues in Canada with direct truthfulness in regard to colonial perspectives directed to Indigenous lives. Sometimes this direction finds a humorous route hoping to make that journey easier to see and understand.

Tricia Smith, LL.D. (Thursday June 22, 2023, 3:00pm)

Tricia Smith grew up in Vancouver in an athletic family and first competed in swimming before taking up rowing at the age of 17. Between 1976 and 1988 Tricia claimed seven World Championship medals, a Commonwealth Games gold, and became a four-time Olympian, winning a silver medal in coxless pair at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. While pursuing her studies and then a legal career, Tricia also assumed groundbreaking leadership roles with numerous sports, becoming the first Canadian elected to the international body which oversees her sport, World Rowing, where she is currently Vice-President, the first Canadian elected to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, and currently also sits on the Executive Committees of Pan Am Sports and the Association of National Olympic Committees. Over several decades of exemplary volunteer work, she has worked tirelessly to expand fair and inclusive opportunities for women and for all athletes in all aspects of sport. She is
currently the President of the Canadian Olympic Committee and in 2016 was elected a member of the International Olympic Committee.

Julie Nesrallah, D.Mus. (Friday June 23, 2023, 3:00pm)
Mezzo-soprano Julie Nesrallah dazzles audiences with her engaging personality, expressive voice and powerful storytelling. Miss Nesrallah has performed for leading opera companies, symphonies, festivals and chamber music ensembles across Canada and around the world. Operatic roles include Isabella in Gioacchino Rossini’s *L’italiana in Algeri*, The Composer in Richard Strauss’ *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Suzuki in Giacomo Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, Maddalena in Giuseppe Verdi’s *Rigoletto*, Cherubino in WA Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro*, Cenerentola in Gioacchino Rossini’s *La Cenerentola*, Anita in Leonard Bernstein’s *West Side Story*, and her highly acclaimed signature role, *Carmen* by Georges Bizet, to name a few. Miss Nesrallah sang God Save the Queen for Will and Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, for Canada Day festivities on Parliament Hill in a performance that was viewed by millions of people around the world. She also sang for *An Evening for Peace* for Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan in Montreal. Miss Nesrallah is the national host of *Tempo* on CBC Music and is also the executive producer and star of *Carmen on Tap*, a company that performs Georges Bizet’s opera Carmen as dinner theatre.