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Rick Mercer and David Suzuki to be honoured at University of Guelph convocations

GUELPH — Environmental activist David Suzuki and celebrity humorist Rick Mercer are among 10 luminaries to receive honorary degrees at the University of Guelph's upcoming summer convocation.

University and community relations director Sue Bennett said the university's wanted to honor Suzuki in particular for quite some time but his scheduling didn't allow an opportunity until now.

"We've been trying for years," Bennett said.

In excess of 3,300 degrees and diplomas are to be presented during 12 ceremonies June 11 to 14, mainly at War Memorial Hall on campus.

Others receiving honorary degrees comprise development advocates John McDermott and Motilal Madan, Aboriginal campaigner Sylvia Maracle, epidemiologist Ian Dohoo, neuropsychological researcher Stanley Coren and philanthropist businessman Stanley Coren.

The mix also includes Canadian tourism booster Wendy Swedlove and investment manager Tony Arrell.

They were chosen by a senate selection committee of seven on campus.

Vik Kirsch, Mercury staff | Mon Jun 4 2012 | Be the first to Comment | **d** oRecommend

"Anyone can nominate for an honorary degree. We'd be delighted if folks would do that," Bennett said, referring to future convocations. Criteria information is on the university's web site.

Social advocate Mercer stars in CBC Television's satirical *This Hour has 22 Minutes* show, which features news report parodies, skits and short comedy routines — when it isn't waylaying Canadian politicians in parking lots.

Suzuki, a geneticist by profession, received wide public attention as former host of CBC's *The Nature of Things* television science magazine, a collection of documentaries of wide interest.

Honorees in previous convocations over the years have included veteran Canadian actor Christopher Plummer, past governor general Michaëlle Jean, former NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin and retired lieutenant-general Romeo Dallaire.

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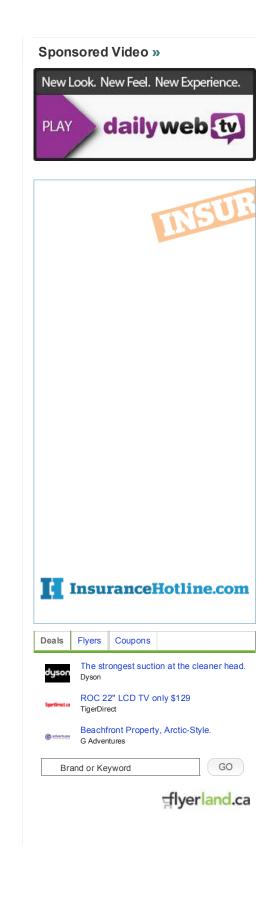
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