Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Karen Roche, Secretary of Senate**
FROM: **Batia Stolar, Chair**
              Senate Honorary Degrees Committee
RE: **Item of Information from the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee**
DATE: **January 15, 2009**

HONORARY DEGREES IN MAY 2009 CONVOCATION CEREMONIES

The Senate Honorary Degrees Committee received confirmation from the proposed recipients for Honorary Degrees in the May 2009 Convocation Ceremonies.

The recipients are:

John Evans, Doctor of Science
Morning Convocation, Thunder Bay

A Rhodes Scholar, he was the founding Dean of McMaster University's School of Medicine in 1965, and Professor of Medicine and President of the University of Toronto in 1972. Among his many notable national and international contributions is the work he accomplished in his role as founding Director of the World Bank's Population, Health and Nutrition Department which led to fundamental contributions to health programs in underdeveloped countries and notable changes in infant mortality. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of MaRS Discovery District, a non-profit innovation centre fostering collaboration between the communities of science, business, and capital in Canada.

Given Dr. Evan's medical background and contributions, the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee felt it appropriate that he receive an Honorary Degree during the Convocation Ceremony in which the first graduating class of NOSM will be graduating.

Richard Stallman, Doctor of Science
Afternoon Convocation, Thunder Bay

Described as an American "software freedom activist," he obtained a BA in physics from Harvard University in 1974. A software developer and pioneer, while

a graduate student at MIT he launched the GNU project in 1983, a mass collaboration project whose mandate is to develop "*a sufficient body of free software [...] to get along without any software that is not free.*" He began the "free software movement" the same year, and in 1985 set up the Free Software Foundation. He co-founded the League for Programming Freedom in 1989, and since the mid-1990s he has been a tireless advocate for free software, campaigning against both software patents and excessive extensions of copyright laws. He has developed a number of widely used software components of the GNU system, including the original Emacs, the GNU Compiler Collection, the GNU symbolic debugger (gdb), GNU Emacs, and various other programs for the GNU operating system. He pioneered the concept of copyleft, and is the main author of the GNU General Public License, the most widely used free software license.

Gwynne Dyer, Doctor of Letters
Orillia Convocation

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, he is a London (UK)-based independent journalist, syndicated columnist and military historian. He writes a column on international affairs which is published in over 175 papers in at least 45 countries. In 2005 he released a book of his columns, titled *With Every Mistake*. He may be best known for his documentary television series, *War*, which was broadcast in 45 countries and one episode was nominated for an Oscar in 1985. He has produced, hosted, written or directed numerous other CBC and NFB films and series, authored 7 books and 6 documentaries, and 6 radio series.

Respectfully Submitted,

     Batia Stolar, Chair of the Senate Honorary Degrees Committee