

MacEwan Alumna part of Nobel Prize winning team

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MacEwan University would like to congratulate alumnus Brenda Barton for her contribution to the work carried out by the United Nations Food Programme which will receive the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize at a virtual awards ceremony on December 10th.

Barton is currently the country director for Sri Lanka, one of the most high risk countries in the world for natural disasters, where she oversees a portfolio of projects that contribute to strengthening Sri Lanka's food and nutrition security.

"It feels like a lifetime achievement award as WFP has often been behind the scenes, unsung heroes, with many, including dear colleagues of mine, who have lost their lives in the line of duty," says Barton.

As a 1981 graduate of the MacEwan Public Relations program, Barton started her career in communications at WFP's headquarters in Rome, and then spent more than 10 years in Africa managing headline-making wars and famines. She was later appointed as WFP's global deputy director of communications. Moving to management roles, she became deputy director for WFP's regional bureau in Southern Africa, responsible for 11 countries.

"We are incredibly proud of Ms. Barton's accomplishments and that the education she gained at MacEwan has helped her to draw attention to some of the world's most challenging issues and create real solutions," says Dr. Annette Trimbee, President and Vice-Chancellor of MacEwan University.

Barton's work has helped to call attention to the needs of people in emergencies such as the famine in the Horn of Africa, the Rwandan genocide and the refugee crisis in the DRC. With new challenges from COVID-19, her work focuses on the increasing problems faced by families in affording and accessing nutritious meals.

"The issues are often not headline-making nor are they visible in the bodies of people – especially when they are to do with micronutrient deficiencies," says Barton. "But they are very serious and now with COVID, nutrition is closely linked to the importance of our immune systems."

The Nobel Peace Prize ceremony formally recognizing the World Food Programme will be streamed on the [Nobel Prize site](#) on December 10th at 13:00 CET.

For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact Samantha Power, media relations advisor.