



(Maria Ressa photo courtesy REUTERS)

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Nobel Prize laureate and Canadian country music industry builder are MacEwan University honorary doctorate recipients

Edmonton, Alberta – MacEwan University is proud to announce that Maria Ressa and Jackie Rae Greening will be recipients of honorary doctorates from the university.

Ressa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021 for her “efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace” and was also recognized as a *Time Magazine* Person of the year in 2018.

“It will truly be an honour to add Maria Ressa to the list of MacEwan honorary doctorates,” says Dr. Annette Trimbee, president and vice-chancellor. “Her steadfast commitment to the fight for journalistic freedom, which is fundamental for democracy, is awe-inspiring. I know the time she spent as a visiting scholar at MacEwan in 2016 was profoundly inspirational for our students as well as her faculty colleagues.”

Ressa founded the news organization *Rappler* after working for CNN as the network’s bureau chief in South East Asia.

“Maria has been working with Facebook and other social media platforms to combat disinformation in the Philippines and hold those in power accountable for their actions.” says Dr. Rey Rosales, chair, Department of Communications at MacEwan. “She has been at the forefront of fighting online misinformation to preserve democratic principles and values.”

Ressa is unable to attend MacEwan’s fall convocation ceremony to accept her honorary doctorate and we hope to invite her to campus in 2023.

Jackie Rae Greening continues to play a significant role in building the Canadian country music industry into what it is today. Throughout her career of over 40 years, she has helped young artists, promoted

their music and worked to ensure they get as much exposure as possible to the continually growing country music audience.

“Jackie Rae’s contributions to the successful careers of aspiring country music artists is incredible. She lives and breathes country music,” says Dr. Annette Trimbee, president and vice-chancellor. “Jackie has dedicated her entire life to volunteerism and mentorship, giving of herself in an unparalleled commitment to her community and to the Canadian country music industry. It is fantastic that we can recognize Jackie Rae with an honorary degree.”

Greening is a member of the Country Music Alberta Hall of Fame. She is currently the program director and manager of operations for Stingray Radio in Edmonton, Camrose and Wetaskiwin.

“Jackie Rae is a friend to all, and a beacon for our industry and all who live and work within it,” says Canadian country music star Brett Kissel. “I am proud to call her a life-long, cherished friend, and will share that pride in one day being able to address her as ‘Dr. JR.’”

MacEwan University awards honorary degrees to individuals with significant achievements in their areas of expertise. Nominations are reviewed by a committee that assists the president in making a recommendation to the university’s Board of Governors, which then makes the final selection.

MacEwan’s Fall convocation ceremonies will be held at Edmonton’s Winspear Centre on Tuesday, November 22 at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Jackie Rae Greening will receive her honorary doctorate and address the graduates during the afternoon ceremony.

For more information, please contact archerj24@macewan.ca