MacEwan University unveils Distinguished Research Award

Edmonton—MacEwan University is pleased to introduce the first ever Distinguished Research Award recipient. The award recognizes scholarly excellence of faculty whose research, scholarship or creative activity have made significant contributions to society.

Dr. Allan Gilliland, chair of the music program at MacEwan University is the first recipient of the Dr. Sherrill Brown Distinguished Research Award. Gilliland was born in Darvel, Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1972. He has written music for orchestra, choir, big band, film, television and theatre. His music has been performed by some of the finest ensembles and soloists in the world.

“Allan’s music is celebrated nationally and internationally and we are proud to honour his artistry as a wonderful example of the diverse, innovative research and creative work that we value so highly,” said Dr. John Corlett, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic. “The world is enriched by his music, his scholarship, his teaching, and his collegial contributions to the university.”

For five years Gilliland was the Composer-in-Residence with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and he composed The Winspear Fanfare for the opening of the Francis Winspear Centre for Music. Recently, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra premiered his latest composition Dreaming of the Masters 3 at Carnegie Hall.

Gilliland holds a diploma in Jazz Studies (trumpet) from Humber College, a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master of Music degree from the University of Alberta. Gilliland also holds a PhD in Composition from the University of Edinburgh.

Dr. Sherrill Brown (1950 – 2014) is recognized for her scholarship and advocacy in early childhood education. Her esteemed career and research included substantive contributions to connections between literacy and play, the role of children as co-creators of curriculum through play, and to building a professional early childhood community in Alberta. Under Brown’s leadership as Faculty Research Officer, she helped to transform the face of research, scholarship and creative activity at MacEwan University.

Gilliland will be presented his Distinguished Research Award at the university’s Spring Convocation.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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