

NEWS RELEASE

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American Red Cross Chair Bonnie McElveen-Hunter to Give Fall Commencement Address at NC State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, chairwoman of the American Red Cross and the CEO and owner of Pace Communications, will give the commencement address during North Carolina State University's fall commencement on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at the RBC Center in Raleigh. Commencement ceremonies begin at 9 a.m.

Dr. Roscoe R. Braham Jr., a pioneering meteorologist and visiting professor at NC State; Dr. Lynn Margulis, Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Roger Milliken, chairman of Milliken & Company; and Rex Nettleford, vice chancellor emeritus at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, will also receive honorary degrees on behalf of NC State from Chancellor James Oblinger.

McElveen-Hunter served as the U.S. Ambassador to Finland from 2001 to 2003. During her term as ambassador she led several initiatives, including The Helsinki Women Business Leaders Summit (2002); Stop Child Trafficking: End Modern-Day Slavery (2003); and Children of Karelia. For her efforts and service, McElveen-Hunter received the Commander Grand Cross of the Order of the Lion – one of Finland's highest honors.

Recognized as a successful entrepreneur and owner of one of the largest private custom publishing companies in the nation, McElveen-Hunter is the recipient of numerous business awards, including the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the National Foundation for Women Legislatures; the National Athena Award for business and civic contributions from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and the Outstanding Business Leader Award from Northwood University. She will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Braham is an educator and noted expert in cloud precipitation physics. In a career spanning 50 years, he served as a research meteorologist at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and the University of Chicago; as professor of physics and founding director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona; as professor of meteorology at the University of Chicago; and currently as visiting scientist at NC State.

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As a scholar, Braham made numerous seminal contributions to his field. He helped lead the Thunderstorm Project – the first large-scale meteorological study ever undertaken – in the late 1940s and co-wrote “The Thunderstorm,” a monograph that is required reading for meteorologists. He is also credited with the discovery of the cell organization of thunderstorms and the coalescence-freezing mechanism of precipitation formation in natural clouds. Braham published more than 80 scientific reports, books and monographs during his academic career. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree.

Margulis is a prolific scholar who has made a number of original contributions in the fields of cell biology and microbial evolution. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Margulis is best known for her theory of symbiogenesis, which challenges a central tenet of neodarwinism. She argues that inherited variation, significant in evolution, does not come mainly from random mutations. Rather, new tissues, organs and even new species evolve primarily through the long-lasting intimacy of strangers.

Margulis has published more than 160 refereed articles and written, co-authored or edited 26 books. She received a Humboldt Prize in 2002, and in 1999 received the Presidential Medal of Science from President Bill Clinton and the William Proctor Prize for Scientific Achievement from Sigma Xi Society, the international honor society of science and engineering. In 1998, the Library of Congress announced it would permanently archive her papers. Margulis will receive an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree.

As chairman of Milliken & Company, the 141-year-old textile and chemical product company headquartered in Spartanburg, S.C., Milliken has championed continuous quality improvement and industry innovation. A contributor to the emergence of bar coding, rapid response standards, supplier recognition and many other practices now standard throughout the textile industry, Milliken served as president of the company for more than 35 years before assuming chairman and CEO titles in 1983.

In recognition of his efforts, the American Textile Manufacturing Institute honored Milliken in 1986 with its “Samuel Slater Distinguished Service Award,” and he was the first recipient of The Textile & Needle Trades Division of ASQC Quality Award in 1991. In 1999, the Northern Textile Association presented him with its “Lifetime Achievement Award” and *Textile World* magazine named him “Leader of the Century.” He will receive an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree.

Nettleford is a well-known Caribbean scholar, trade union educator, social and cultural historian, and political analyst. A leading Caribbean authority on the performing arts, he is the founder, artistic director and principal choreographer of the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, which has appeared worldwide to international acclaim since 1962.

Heavily involved in international efforts to promote intercultural learning and development, Nettleford was a founding governor of the Canada-based International Development Research Centre and former chairman of the Commonwealth Arts Organization. He also served as a consultant on cultural development to the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization and was a member of its executive board. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree.

For more information about NC State's fall 2006 commencement activities visit www.ncsu.edu/registrar/graduation/index.html.

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