

Pro-Chancellor,

Larry Hollingworth has made an outstanding contribution to the field of emergency relief. As a Head of Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in a number of countries, his leadership has provided help to countless men, women and children displaced from their homes due to war and natural disaster.

Today, Larry draws on his experiences to educate others as Director of Humanitarian Programs at the Center for International Humanitarian Co-operation, at Fordham University in New York. He has also provided valuable advice and support to BU's own Disaster Management Centre.

Born and raised in Liverpool, Larry began his career in the British Army. He recalls the surprise of his family when he passed the entrance exam for Sandhurst, and became one of only a handful of grammar school boys to take their place at the prestigious Royal Military Academy.

During 30 years of service, Larry completed tours in 18 countries and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel\*. It was in the Army that Larry first encountered the work of aid agencies, as he saw missionaries serving local communities. On retiring from the Army at the age of 50, he recalls that he bluffed his way into a role with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, after pretending to have an appointment with the organisation's Head of Human Resources. Larry went on to be appointed Chief of Operations in Sarajevo\*\* during the Balkan conflict, and personally led convoys to besieged towns through active combat front lines, to feed the population and evacuate women and children to safety.

He has since worked with refugees and displaced persons in areas including Sudan, Kenya, Iraq, East Timor, Chechnya, Lebanon and Palestine. In 1994, he was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Larry has spoken and written on the contrasting leadership styles of the armed forces and the aid world, where personal influence and collaboration are key to getting things done.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Larry Hollingworth, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.