

Dr. Ross E. Zumwalt '65  
Clarence A. Jackson Career Service Award

Dr. Ross E. Zumwalt, your alma mater welcomes you home and pays tribute to you today for your contributions to the field of forensic medicine. You graduated from Wabash in 1967 as a biology major and gave a Commencement address titled "Liberal Arts on the Six-Year Plan," then entered the still-emerging field of forensic pathology. You would attend the University of Illinois College of Medicine with residencies in Cooperstown, New York and at the Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas. It was in Dallas, in the mid 1970s, that you — as Assistant Medical Examiner for Dallas County — were featured in a newspaper article about this "new field" of crime scene investigators. You served in the Navy as the Director of Laboratories at the Regional Medical Center at Camp Lejeune, and held Deputy Coroner positions in Cleveland and Cincinnati. While specializing in child abuse investigations at the Hamilton County Institute of Forensic Medicine, you played a critical role in the landmark conviction of an Indiana woman for the beating death of her child — 20 years earlier! Your work brought to life the profound role medical examiners and crime scene investigators would play in the future of criminal investigations. In 1987, you joined the faculty as Professor of Pathology at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, and two years later became the Chief Medical Investigator in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the position you hold to this day. You have been a Diplomat in the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic and Forensic Pathology, a Trustee of the American Board of Pathology, and served as president of the National Association of Medical Examiners. You served on a National Academy of Sciences Committee to identify the needs of the forensic science community. You have widely published your findings in more than 50 articles in professional journals; investigations ranging from suicide, infant death syndrome, fatal peyote ingestion, carbon monoxide poisoning in underground mines, and death by electrocution in a hot air balloon, to name only a few! More recently, you did groundbreaking work to identify an outbreak of a severe pulmonary disease, which you linked to a previously unrecognized Hantavirus. In the last few years, you have worked to create a model surveillance system called Med-X, which is an effective method that enables medical examiners and coroners to recognize fatal infections of public health importance, which will increase the likelihood of recognizing deaths due to bioterrorism. Through your illustrious career, we imagine that you've spent more time on the witness stand in murder trials than all of those actors on all of those CSI shows combined! Indeed, we Wabash men figure the CBS television network, which has banked millions on its CSI franchise, owes you a healthy cut of the profits. Your keen intellect, insatiable curiosity, and leadership in the forensic medicine community make you a model Wabash man living out the mission of the College. Therefore, the National Association of Wabash Men is proud to present you the Clarence A. Jackson Career Service Award. Dr. Ross E. Zumwalt — Some Little Giant!