

WABASH COLLEGE

Dean F. Reynolds '70 Doctor of Humane Letters

Dean F. Reynolds, there were clear signs of where your career might take you when you were an undergraduate here at Wabash — English major and history minor, involvement with the campus radio station, WNDY, and newspaper, *The Bachelor*, not to mention the influence of your father, the beloved ABC News Anchor Frank Reynolds, Wabash Class of 1946. Shortly after your graduation in 1970, you landed in Washington as a regional editor for United Press International. It was there that you began to bring the most important events happening around the world to the newspapers — and later televisions — in homes across the country. The precision and clarity of your writing, skills honed at UPI, have made you one of the most trusted and respected correspondents of our time.

A four-time Emmy Award winner for broadcast excellence, you have reported on the great triumphs and tragedies the world over. You were an eyewitness to assassination attempts on Governor George Wallace and President Ronald Reagan, and for the latter reporting you garnered the White House Correspondents' Merriman Smith Award. You spent 12 years as UPI's White House Correspondent. After a short stint with CNN, you joined ABC News in 1984 and spent 23 years in posts around the world before joining CBS News in 2007. While based in Tel Aviv, you covered the momentous Palestinian uprising and that year you broadcast more evening news reports than any other network correspondent, foreign or domestic. Americans learned what scud missiles were when they rained down all around you in your coverage of the Gulf War. You provided the world details of the Iran/Contra Affair and gave us a first-hand look at the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Reassigned to Dallas, you reported on the Oklahoma City bombing and the investigation, trial, and execution of Timothy McVeigh.

Never content to be behind an anchor desk, you have been a voice of reason and understanding for your viewers in the midst of natural disasters or amid the carnage of man-made devastation — most recently from the streets of Boston after the marathon bombing.

We have come to know you well from your reporting of presidential campaigns. You traveled with George W. Bush in 2000, Senator John Kerry in 2004, and you were with Barack Obama when he secured his historic nomination in 2008. We recall that day in late 2007 when you went live on CBS Evening News just as candidate Obama — standing just feet away from you — started an Iowa stump speech and diverted from his remarks to tell you to quiet down.

You once wrote on a blog, "I've been riding campaign buses since 1972, and I've always thought of them as a great way to see the country, to ride those back roads most Americans

never take.” And in your coverage, you introduced us to Illinois Pumpkin Queen Sarah Talley and her million-pumpkin empire; small town doctor Russell Dohner, who practiced medicine for \$5 per patient; and a little town called Crawfordsville, where you searched for *Harry Potter* when the last epic book was published here.

No matter what your subject, you respected your audience, conveying in language and image that never talked down to the American people. You described how the “ground was drowning” when the levees failed in Cedar Rapids and how “rain drops fell too softly to wash away the blood” from the assassination attempt on President Reagan. And while reporting on the fall and eventual rebirth of the U.S. auto industry, you showed us how the recession hit families all across the Rust Belt.

Over the last decade, you have paid particular attention to the rising gang violence and escalating murder rate in your home city of Chicago, including a chilling night shift spent with Chicago police. Your reporting has covered the stories of the children being gunned down in the streets and their grieving mothers, and you’ve walked us through the trauma centers that treat so many mangled victims.

Dean F. Reynolds, liberal arts journalist extraordinaire, Wabash College is proud of the integrity, breadth, and depth with which you practice your craft in an age of “be first” news. Through your courage and hard work, you have helped us all know and understand our times. Therefore, by the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wabash College and delegated to that Board by the State of Indiana, I do hereby confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining, of which this citation shall be a permanent witness.

Patrick E. White
President, Wabash College
May 12, 2013