



Winter 2-3-2000

Emmy Award-Winning Newsman Chris Wallace of ABC News, 20/20 Chief Correspondent To Keynote IWU's Founders' Day Convocation, Feb. 16

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Emmy Award-Winning Newsman Chris Wallace of ABC News, 20/20 Chief Correspondent To Keynote IWU's Founders' Day Convocation, Feb. 16" (2000). *News and Events*. 777.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/777>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Feb. 3, 2000
CONTACT: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Emmy Award-Winning Newsman Chris Wallace of ABC News, 20/20 Chief Correspondent To Keynote IWU's Founders' Day Convocation, Feb. 16

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Emmy Award-winning newsman Chris Wallace, chief correspondent for the ABC News magazine 20/20, will keynote Illinois Wesleyan University's Founders' Day Convocation, Feb. 16 (Wednesday).

Wallace will deliver his address, "A 20/20 View of the News," at the 11 a.m. convocation in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University, Bloomington. His address is open to the public; there is no admission fee.

Wallace's speech will be a blend of current events, a behind the scenes look at the news, and a guide to how college students and others can be better consumers of the news, especially in an election year.

Wallace, who is a frequent substitute host of Nightline, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Illinois Wesleyan.

Founders' Day marks the establishment of IWU in 1850 by 30 community leaders in Bloomington, who agreed to found "an institution of learning of the collegiate grade."

Commenting on why he chose journalism as a career, Wallace said: "I was exposed to journalism, of course, by my father," referring to Mike Wallace, co-editor and correspondent for CBS' 60 Minutes. "But I was an intern at the age of 16 at the 1964 political conventions, and I couldn't believe that people got paid for being reporters. It was fascinating.

"News is interesting and it's important," Wallace added. "I've spent my career covering and uncovering it."

Wallace covered U.S. presidential campaigns in 1980, 1984, and 1988, and was a floor reporter at the Democratic and Republican national conventions in those years. In 1980, he was the first network correspondent to report Ronald Reagan's choice of George Bush as his running mate. Wallace covered Congress in 1978-79.

Wallace has conducted groundbreaking investigations into waste and fraud in the Medicare, Food Stamp, and federal disability programs. In 1993-94, he reported on a series of

congressional probes. Among these stories were a hidden-camera investigation into gender bias; a report on baggage theft by U.S. airline employees; and an investigation into the spread of "superbugs" resistant to antibiotics treatment.

During the 1991-92 season, Wallace broadcast an Emmy-nominated report on the questionable effectiveness of the \$30 billion B-2 Stealth bomber.

His profile of Thaddeus Lott, a Houston elementary-school principal whose school for underprivileged students regularly outperformed more affluent suburban schools, was honored with a Cine Golden Eagle award, an American Film and Video award, and an Emmy nomination.

During his years as chief correspondent for ABC's PrimeTime Live, Wallace received two Emmy Awards, two Investigative Reporters and Editors Awards, the George Polk Award, the National Press Club Award for consumer journalism, the Ohio State Award, and two Cine Golden Eagle Awards.

Over the years, Wallace has interviewed a wide range of public figures and celebrities—from President Bill Clinton to former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; from Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, the mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing to then-Vice President Dan Quayle; from an interview and one-on-one game with basketball superstar Michael Jordan to the Baltimore Orioles' Cal Ripken, then on the verge of breaking Lou Gehrig's record for consecutive games played.

Wallace joined ABC News in 1989 from NBC News, where he had been chief White House correspondent since 1982 and anchor of Meet the Press since 1987. As White House correspondent, Wallace covered President Ronald Reagan's trip to the People's Republic of China in 1984 and four summit conferences between Reagan and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Wallace was the anchor of the Sunday edition of NBC Nightly News from 1982 to 1984 and from 1986 to 1987. He co-anchored the Today show in 1982. In 1981, Wallace was named Washington correspondent for special segment reports on the NBC Nightly News.

He joined NBC in 1975 as a reporter with WNBC-TV in New York City.

The investigative unit he headed won a Peabody Award and a 1977 New York State Associated Press Broadcasters Award for enterprise reporting. In 1980, he won an Emmy Award for the NBC News documentary, *The Migrant*.

Wallace is a 1969 graduate of Harvard University, where he majored in history.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a

\$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. A \$23 million library and a \$6 million student center are under construction. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a high-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton University and Dartmouth College.

--30--

| [Top of Page](#) |
