



Spring 4-27-1999

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Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "All Things Considered National Public Radio's Linda Wertheimer To Address IWU's 149th Commencement, May 2" (1999). *News and Events*. 860.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/860>

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April 27, 1999

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All Things Considered

National Public Radio's Linda Wertheimer
To Address IWU's 149th Commencement, May 2

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. Linda Wertheimer, award-winning journalist and senior host of National Public Radio's newsmagazine, *All Things Considered*, will address an estimated 430 graduates and their families at Illinois Wesleyan University's 149th commencement on May 2 (Sunday).

IWU's 1 p.m. graduation ceremony (the processional of graduates and faculty begins at 12:45 p.m.) will take place on the Eckley Quadrangle unless inclement weather forces the event inside the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson, Bloomington.

Wertheimer will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree for her lifetime contributions to journalism. Her commencement address is titled, "Giving Up Politics."

IWU will award bachelor's degrees to about 230 female and 200 male students at Commencement '99. It's estimated that about 23 students will graduate summa cum laude (3.90 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale), 59 students will graduate magna cum laude (3.70 grade-point average or higher), and 76 students will graduate cum laude (3.50 grade-point average or higher).

The graduating class includes approximately 372 students from Illinois and students from 19 other states, as well as an estimated five international students from five nations.

Graduating seniors represent 33 fields of study, the top six of which, in terms of the number of graduates, are expected to be in business administration, biology, psychology, English, music, and accounting.

Wertheimer Profiled

As senior host of National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, Wertheimer draws on more than a quarter-century of political reporting experience.

She joined NPR in 1971 after working for the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) in London and WCBS Radio in New York.

Wertheimer was NPR's congressional correspondent before being named its political correspondent in 1976 a post she held until 1989, when she began hosting *All Things Considered*.

A veteran correspondent, Wertheimer has covered Capitol Hill stories, ranging from Watergate to the Iran-Contra scandal.

In 1992, she received an American Women in Radio/TV award for her story, "Illegal Abortion." In 1988, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) gave her an award for anchoring "The Iran-Contra Affair: A Special Report," a series of 41 half-hour programs that summarized each day's congressional hearings and highlighted key testimony.

Wertheimer was honored with a special Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University citation for anchoring the first live broadcast from the U.S. Senate chamber, the historic 1978 Panama Canal treaty debates. She also covered the U.S. House Judiciary Committee hearings on the impeachment of President Richard Nixon.

During the past four presidential election campaigns, Wertheimer has traveled nationwide with the major candidates, covering state primaries and national conventions. Since 1976, she has anchored NPR's live coverage of the nominating conventions and presidential debates.

Wertheimer is a 1965 graduate of Wellesley College (Massachusetts), which awarded her its 1985 Distinguished Alumnae Achievement Award "in recognition of excellence and distinction in professional pursuits." She also holds honorary degrees from Colby College in Maine and Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

Her 1995 book, *Listening to America: Twenty-five Years in the Life of A Nation Heard on National Public Radio*, published by Houghton Mifflin, celebrates NPR's 25th anniversary. A collection of interviews and essays, the book revisits major news stories and cultural changes of the past quarter-century. Wertheimer's commentaries place each story in its historical context.

NPR, a membership organization of 608 radio stations across America, often is described as radio's leading provider of high-quality news, information, and cultural programming. NPR is the producer and distributor of award-winning broadcasts such as *Morning Edition*, *NPR's Performance Today*, *CarTalk*, and *All Things Considered*.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 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.

