



Winter 2-12-1997

Retired State Farm Executive to Receive Honorary Degree at IWU Convocation, Feb. 12;

Bob Aaron
Illinois Wesleyan University

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

Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "Retired State Farm Executive to Receive Honorary Degree at IWU Convocation, Feb. 12;" (1997). *News and Events*. 6753.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6753>

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.

February 12, 1997

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Retired State Farm Executive to Receive Honorary Degree at IWU Convocation, Feb. 12; PBS-CNN Newsman Ken Bode is Founders' Day Keynote Speaker

Special to the University of Chicago Alumni Magazine

Rex James Bates, University of Chicago '47, M.B.A. '49 received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Illinois Wesleyan University on Feb. 12.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A retired State Farm Insurance executive and veteran investment manager for Illinois Wesleyan University's endowment will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the university's Founders' Day Convocation, Feb. 12.

The honorary degree recognizes decades of service to the university by Rex James Bates, who joined IWU's Board of Trustees in 1978, serving on the Investment Committee.

Bates will be honored at the 11 a.m. Convocation, Wednesday, in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University St., Bloomington. The Convocation marks IWU's birth in 1850.

As investment manager, Bates was responsible for the equity portfolio in IWU's Endowment Fund. Under his leadership, the portfolio grew from \$1.7 million in 1978 to \$50.5 million in 1994. This growth was the result of new gifts and capital gains. Bates shared his investment acumen with the university as a gift-in-kind.

Bates has been a leadership donor to Illinois Wesleyan and others have made gifts to the university in appreciation of his contributions to IWU. These gifts are valued at more than \$1.1 million.

Bates also has served as a volunteer on the Campaign for Illinois Wesleyan University, as co-chair for the Trustee Fund Committee and as an Advisory Committee member for the Center for Natural Science. Bates and his wife, Reva, are members of the Board of Visitors.

Bates, a native of Seattle, Washington, is the retired chief investment officer of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. He also served as vice chairman of the board of State Farm Insurance Companies, Inc., until his 1993 retirement.

Before joining State Farm in 1972, Bates was a partner in the investment firm of Stein, Roe and Farnham in Chicago.

He attended Oregon State University in 1941-42. During World War II, Bates served in the Pacific (1942-46) with the U.S. Army Air Force, earning a Purple Heart for being wounded in action and an Air Medal.

(more)

University of Chicago Alumnus Receives IWU Honorary Degree/2

Bates earned two academic degrees from the University of Chicago: an undergraduate degree in 1947 and a master's degree in business administration in 1949.

Veteran journalist Ken Bode, moderator of public television's "Washington Week in Review," will be the keynote speaker at the Convocation. He also will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for his contributions to the profession of journalism.

Bode is an Emmy Award-winning newsman, who every Friday night rides herd on a sometimes cantankerous group of journalists on "Washington Week," which has 3.2 million viewers and is the longest-running news program on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS).

He was in the Cable News Network (CNN) booth at the Republican and Democratic national conventions last summer, offering political insights and analysis.

For a decade, Bode was a national political correspondent for NBC News routinely appearing on the "Nightly News," the "Today" show, "Meet the Press," and other broadcasts.

He is the John Hughes Professor of Media and Politics at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind.

Bode is the senior correspondent for WETA, the PBS-TV station serving the Washington, D.C., area. He is WETA's anchor, moderator, and commentator for the station's coverage of congressional hearings and other events.

In 1995, Bode's five-part series on GOP presidential candidates, "The Challengers '96: A 'Washington Week in Review' Special Series," aired on PBS. He interviewed the major Republican candidates--including the eventual GOP nominee former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole. He also wrote and reported a special half-hour segment for the series on Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and White House National Security Adviser.

Bode was on the presidential campaign trail in 1992, reporting for CNN. During the primaries and national conventions, he joined CNN correspondent Bernard Shaw in the anchor booth. He also moderated the South Dakota presidential primary debate and was a panelist for the New Hampshire debate.

As part of CNN's series, "Democracy in America," Bode reported and wrote two hour-long documentaries, "Bill Clinton in Arkansas" and "The Public Mind of George Bush." The Clinton piece won the National Academy of Cable Programming's CableAce Award. The Bush feature won an Emmy and the 1992 Jones Shorenstein Barone Award for Washington-based national affairs reporting.

From 1979-89, Bode was a national political correspondent for NBC News, based in Washington, D.C. His "Bode's Journal," a series of essays on politics and life in America, was a regular feature on the "Today" show. He covered the 1980, 1984, and 1988 presidential campaigns for NBC and was a floor

(more)

University of Chicago Alumnus Receives IWU Honorary Degree/2

correspondent at the national political conventions.

Previously, Bode was politics editor for "The New Republic" magazine, where he wrote articles and editorials and covered the 1976 presidential campaign and the Carter administration.

Bode is a 1961 graduate of the University of South Dakota. He earned a master's degree and doctorate from the University of North Carolina.

Bode has taught at the Michigan State University and the State University of New York at Binghamton. He was a post-doctoral fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University in 1978 and a Poynter Fellow in Journalism at Yale University in 1989. He is a Senior Adjunct Fellow at the Hudson Institute in Indianapolis.