

Distinguished Achievement Citation

John D. Callaway

Class of 1958

With pride, we present Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation to John Callaway in recognition of his exceptional career as a professional journalist. During the past 46 years he has excelled as a broadcast executive, radio and television interviewer and host, news anchor, reporter and analyst, documentary producer and narrator, magazine writer, print columnist, book author, university teacher, fellowship program administrator, national lecturer and moderator, and most recently stage performer and writer.

After leaving Ohio Wesleyan in 1956, with only 71 cents in his pocket, Callaway hitchhiked to Chicago and began his journalism career as a police reporter for the famed City News Bureau of Chicago. He then joined CBS in Chicago in 1957 as a reporter/documentary producer for WBBM Radio & TV. At CBS he distinguished himself with his coverage of the American civil rights movement, winning seven national awards for his 13-part radio documentary series entitled "The House Divided". In 1968, as News Director at WBBM, he helped develop that station's all-news format and later that year was appointed Vice President of CBS radio in New York to implement the development of all-news formats at CBS stations across the nation. In 1973 he returned to Chicago and a year later he joined WTTW where he began his 29 year career in public television as the host of the station's first nightly new program. His national PBS series have included *John Callaway interviews*, *Dilemmas of Disarmament* and *Campaigning on Cue*.

In the latest chapter of his career, John starred in "John Callaway Tonight", an autobiographical one-man show he wrote and performed which was given its world premier by the Chicago Pegasus Players Theater in March 2001.

In addition to his broadcast accomplishments, Callaway was the founding Director of the William Benton Fellowship in Broadcast Journalism program at the University of Chicago as well as author of the best-selling book of essays, *The Thing of It Is*. His broadcast journalism work has been honored with more than one hundred awards, including the coveted Peabody Award and fourteen Emmys. He is the recipient of nine honorary doctorate degrees, including those from Northwestern University, Loyola University and the John Marshall College of Law.

During his time at Ohio Wesleyan, he was a member of Beta Sigma Tau fraternity and involved in other campus activities. It was his experiences at Ohio Wesleyan that helped to establish his lifelong pursuit of knowledge. That pursuit of knowledge has served him well and makes us proud to call him one of our own.

We join his reunioning classmates in saluting John Callaway and recognizing his outstanding accomplishments through the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Award.

May 17, 2003

