

# 2019 J.R. McDowell Speaker

## *Inside Politics with Judy Woodruff*

By Sam Hipp  
Staff Writer

PBS NewsHour anchor Judy Woodruff arrived at Brevard College Thursday, Sept. 19 as the McDowell Lecture Series speaker for fall 2019.

A longtime journalist covering politics in Washington, including stints as White House correspondent for NBC News and host of a weekday show on politics on CNN, Woodruff spoke in the Porter Center that evening on the topic "Inside Politics," during which she discussed the important and controversial topics in today's political climate to a wide audience.

Among the most controversial topics of today are the attacks that President Donald Trump has made on the press, referring to networks such as CNN as "fake news" and constantly hurling insults via Twitter.

"Trump says that the media is the enemy of the American people," Judy Woodruff said in an impassioned speech about these attacks. "He couldn't be any further from the

truth. The press is there to serve and inform the American people."

She had strongly assured the audience that the purpose of the press is to report information for the people, not to act as their enemy.

While upset at the President's comments, Woodruff also brought up the issue of why news outlets are being called out for "fake news." She pointed out that there are multiple news sources that are lacking in journalistic integrity by showing extreme bias, hiding certain pieces of news from the public or even outright reporting falsehoods.

Woodruff moved on to discussing elections she has covered in the past and what the upcoming election would probably bring.

"This will probably be the most important election in your lifetime. I know they always say that about every election," she said, "but so much depends on what happens next year."

She continued with statements of how both the Republican and Democratic parties will be torn up if President Trump is reelected due to the division that he is presently causing in Washington, D.C.

## Judy Woodruff meets with BC students in MG

By Sam Hipp  
Staff Writer

Before her "Inside Politics" talk on Thursday, Sept. 19, broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff met with students, faculty and staff to discuss her career and answer some questions.

Woodruff began her talk with stories of growing up in a military family, moving from place to place, wherever her father was stationed. She talked about the bases she lived in that were spread out across the United States and in a few bases in foreign countries, including Germany and Taiwan.

Her formal education began in 1964 where she attended Meredith College, an all women's college in North Carolina, to pursue a degree in Mathematics. The pursuit in Mathematics was put off by gaining an interest in Political Science from one of her professors. She eventually transferred to Duke University and graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor's in Political Science.

Though she had a great drive to pursue a career in journalism, Woodruff faced some rough patches along the way. When she began as a secretary at an ABC affiliate in Atlanta, her superiors made sexist comments about her appearance rather than focusing on her abilities as a rising journalist.

Sexism did not hold her back. She still wanted to rise up in a male-dominated field where women would usually, at best, report on the weather.

Her career went on during a very turbulent era for civil rights where women were gaining better career opportunities, in part to her efforts as a journalist. Her work for news outlets such as PBS, CNN and NBC has empowered women to pursue careers in the field to where now we see many women anchoring and reporting for most news outlets.



Photo by Esther Padgett



Photo by John Padgett

Left: PBS NewsHour anchor Judy Woodruff presents her talk on "Inside Politics" to a sold-out crowd at the Porter Center on Thursday evening. Right: Earlier that afternoon, Woodruff met with students, staff and faculty in MG 125 and answered their questions.