

CNN Anchor Judy Woodruff named as May commencement speaker

"Inside Politics" host returns to speak at Meredith, where she was once a student.

LADONNA LOGUE
News Editor

Judy Woodruff, CNN anchor and senior correspondent, will be Meredith's spring commencement speaker.

Dr. Maureen Hartford said, "I have met Ms. Woodruff several times and have found her to be incredibly well informed, poised, warm and charming."

"She is an incredible role model for women, combining a career, marriage and children. She is at the top of her profession and is respected within that profession for her skill and integrity," she added.

Woodruff attended Meredith before moving on to Duke University to earn her bachelor's degree in political science.

Woodruff left Meredith because she wished to pur-

sue a political science degree, which was not offered when she was a student at Meredith. Dr. Carolyn Happer, professor of history, helped Woodruff decide on another college.

Happer and Woodruff stayed in touch over the years and in almost every discussion Woodruff inquired about Meredith.

Dr. Ione Knight, professor emeritus of English, remembers her as, "a good student with a lot of potential." Knight taught Woodruff in a British Authors survey course.

Woodruff returned to Meredith as the commencement speaker for the class of 1989.

She currently anchors "Inside Politics with Judy Woodruff" and also covers breaking news such as the 9/11 attacks and the Columbia space shuttle crash.

Woodruff's main focus is politics. She has covered every national political convention and presidential campaign since 1976.

Her achievements include the Joan Shorenstein Barone Prize by the Washington Radio and Television Correspondents' Association for her series on national defense issues

in 1986. She received the National Women's Hall of Fame President's 21st Century Award in 1994. Woodruff has worked with her husband to receive two awards: Washingtonians of the Year in 1994 and the Allen H. Neuharth Award for Excellence in Journalism in 1995.

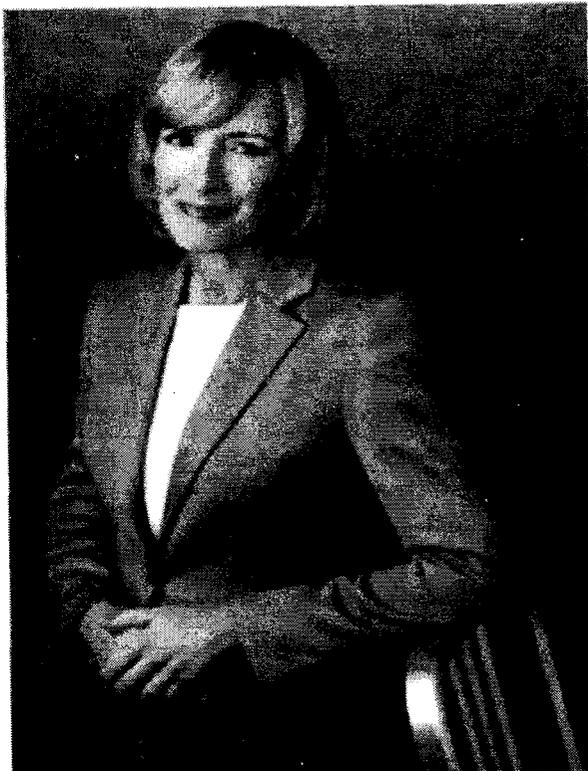
In 1997, Woodruff covered the Centennial Olympic Park Bombing, which won her a News and Documentary Emmy Award. She has also received the CableACE Award for Best Newscaster and for Best Anchor Team for her work on "Inside Politics."

Woodruff serves as a co-chair for the International Women's Media Foundation. She serves on the board of trustees for the Freedom Forum in Arlington, Va., the board of advisers for the John S. Knight Journalism Fellowships at

Stanford University, and the board of trustees for the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Urban Institute.

In recognition of her success in journalism, the International Women's Media Foundation established a new branch for the Judy Woodruff Fellowship. The Foundation now grants Courage in Journalism awards in her honor. These awards are given to journalists who have shown extreme courage to report the news in potentially harmful or difficult circumstances.

"She will bring a lot to graduation," said Megan Deane, senior class president and member of the search committee who selected Woodruff. "We [the class of 2003] will be able to learn so much from her."



CNN Anchor Judy Woodruff.

Photo courtesy of Judy Woodruff.

Watch Woodruff on "Inside Politics" weekdays at 4 p.m. on CNN.

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