

WASHINGTON COLLEGE

CITATION

John Harwood

In a business increasingly characterized by hype and hyperbole, John Harwood stands out for his reasoned voice, objective eye and calm judgment. His is the old and honorable role: Bearer of News, Witness, Reporter. In Harwood's interviews, the focus is on the subject and the issue—not on Harwood. His self-effacing style runs against the grain of the televised culture of personality that drives so much of the news business today. Where others go for the sound bite, Harwood goes after sound information. Like every reporter he asks the obvious questions—the ones on minds of those who aren't in a position to ask them. Like few others, Harwood listens closely to the answers, which lead him on to harder questions—the ones we didn't know needed to be asked.

Harwood's political insight is hard-won. He reported on the turbulent unraveling of apartheid in South Africa and on elections in El Salvador and Germany. Closer to home, he bore witness to Newt Gingrich's Republican Revolution, the passage of Tax Reform and Health Care initiatives, interviewing each of the last four American presidents. At the Wall Street Journal, he was part of the team that received the Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of the events of September 11. As Chief Washington Correspondent for CNBC, columnist for The New York Times and political analyst for a variety of news shows, Harwood's career continues on its upward trajectory. Lest our students think that his work is all rough duty, let us note that Harwood interviewed will.i.am of the "Black-Eyed Peas" and is himself, along with President Obama, the star of a hip-hop remix of the interview he conducted with the President in which a fly met its fate. No matter how difficult the assignment, Harwood keeps a cool head and a balanced approach.

Harwood comes by his sense of fairness honestly. His father, journalist Richard Harwood, was a senior editor and ombudsman for The Washington Post who became legendary for his "take-no-prisoners" insistence on adherence to the highest journalistic standards. After his father's death, John Harwood took over as curator of the Harwood Endowment in Journalism and National Affairs here at Washington College, bringing a series of distinguished leaders, political strategists, and journalists to campus as well as underwriting an internship for the rising editor of the Elm, our student newspaper.

In recognition of his keen insight into American politics and his significant contributions to the field of journalism, we are pleased to present to John Harwood the honorary degree, doctor of letters.

Baird Tipson,

President

May 16, 2010

B I O G R A P H Y

John Harwood

JOHN HARWOOD, who has covered each of the last seven presidential elections, was just 11 when he made his first trip on a presidential campaign press plane, accompanied by his father, then political report for the *Washington Post*. John Harwood is Chief Washington correspondent of CNBC and political writer for the *New York Times*. While still in high school, he began his journalism career as a copy boy at the *Washington Star*. He studied history and economics at Duke University and subsequently joined the *St. Petersburg Times*, reporting on police, investigative projects, local government and politics. Later he became state capital correspondent in Tallahassee, Washington correspondent and political editor. While covering national politics, he traveled extensively to South Africa, where he reported on the deepening unrest against the apartheid regime. In 1989, Harwood was named Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. In 1991, he joined *The Wall Street Journal* as White House correspondent. Later Harwood reported on Congress and in 1997, he became the *Journal's* political editor and chief political correspondent. Harwood joined CNBC as Chief Washington Correspondent in March 2006. The following year he joined *The New York Times*, where he writes the paper's Caucus column among other duties. In addition to CNBC, Harwood offers political analysis on MSNBC, NBC's *Meet the Press* and *Nightly News*, and PBS' *Washington Week in Review*.