Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism

Introductory Remarks
Kristin Gilger
Interim Dean, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication

Thanking Our Supporters
Anita Helt
Vice President & General Manager, ABC15 & CW61
President, Cronkite Endowment Board

Introduction of Dean Baquet
Dr. Mark S. Searle
Executive Vice President and University Provost
Arizona State University

Presentation of the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism
Dean Baquet
Executive Editor
The New York Times

Remarks by Honoree
Dean Baquet

Arizona State University
Dean Baquet is the executive editor of The New York Times, one of the nation's leading and most respected news outlets.

As executive editor, he leads The Times’ newsroom and oversees The New York Times’ news report in all its various forms. He is the first Black editor of The Times in its 170-year history.

Mr. Baquet joined the newspaper in 1990 as a Metro reporter. Over the next decade, he went on to be special projects editor for the business desk, deputy Metro editor and National editor.

In 2000, he left the paper to join the Los Angeles Times, where he served as managing editor and then editor of the paper. He returned in 2007 to lead The Times' Washington bureau and was named managing editor in 2011. He assumed the executive editor position in 2014.

During his tenure as managing editor and top editor, the newspaper has won 16 Pulitzer Prizes.

Mr. Baquet started his journalism career as a reporter at The Times Picayune newspaper in New Orleans, where he worked for nearly seven years before joining the Chicago Tribune. While at the Chicago Tribune, he served as associate Metro editor for investigations and was chief investigative reporter, covering corruption in politics and the garbage-hauling industry.

He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in March 1988 when he led a team of three in documenting corruption in the Chicago City Council, and was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 1994 in the investigative reporting category. Mr. Baquet also has received numerous local and regional awards, including the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press Award in 2018 and the Larry Foster Award for Integrity in Public Communication in 2019.

Mr. Baquet majored in English at Columbia University from 1974 to 1978. He holds an honorary degree from Loyola University New Orleans and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Xavier University of Louisiana.
Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication

The Cronkite School is widely recognized as one of the nation's premier professional journalism programs. Rooted in the time-honored values of accuracy, responsibility, fairness and integrity that characterize its namesake, the school fosters journalistic excellence and ethics among students as they master the practical skills they need to succeed in the digital journalism world of today and tomorrow.

The Cronkite School's 2,400 students consistently lead the country in national competitions. Over the past decade, Cronkite has been No. 1 in the nation in the Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence competition and the Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts awards and has finished in the top 10 in the Hearst Journalism Awards each year.

Students are guided by a faculty that is made up of award-winning professional journalists, strategic communications executives and world-class media scholars. Cronkite professors include five Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, digital media thought leaders, top TV producers and correspondents, major metropolitan newspaper editors and strategic communications experts. They are master teachers, writers and scholars who often speak around the globe on the most important topics facing journalism today.

The Cronkite School leads the field of journalism education with its innovative use of the “teaching hospital” method, providing both unparalleled learning opportunities for students and important news content to the community, state, region and nation.

Students cover public affairs from news bureaus in Phoenix, Los Angeles and Washington, and they report on sports from bureaus in Phoenix and Los Angeles. They conduct national investigations as part of the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism, and they produce multimedia projects on issues of national import in the Carnegie-Knight News21 program.

Other immersion programs include Cronkite Noticias, in which bilingual students produce Spanish-language broadcast and digital stories; the Public Relations Lab, where they develop campaigns for
The journalism program at Arizona State University was named in honor of former CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite in 1984. The relationship started when Tom Chauncey, longtime owner of the CBS affiliate in Phoenix, and his son, Tom Chauncey II, leading supporters of journalism education at ASU, contacted their old friend in an effort to advance the program. An endowment on behalf of the program was soon established, and the school was named after “the most trusted man in America.”

Over the next quarter of a century, Cronkite lent much more than his name to the school. He was closely involved — advising leadership, guiding students and faculty and traveling to Arizona each year to personally give the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism to one of the nation’s top journalists.

Although Cronkite died on July 17, 2009, before he was able to visit the school that bears his name in its new downtown Phoenix location, he remains an ever-present part of the school’s heartbeat and direction. His legacy lives on in the spirit and passion with which the school teaches both the skills to do journalism in today’s media environment and the time-honored ethics and news values necessary to do it in the manner that would make our namesake proud.
Thank You for Your Support

Thank you to our Cronkite Award Luncheon sponsors. Your generosity provides critical funding for Cronkite students and future generations of journalists and media professionals.

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|                         | Arizona Highways Magazine  
|                         | Cable One  
|                         | Friends of Public Radio / KJZZ  
|                         | Hardt & Associates  
|                         | Mary M Media  
|                         | Orbitel Communications  
|                         | Phoenix Business Journal  
|                         | Southwest Cable Communications Association  
|                         | Univision Arizona |

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Previous Cronkite Award Recipients

Each fall, a leading figure in journalism is presented with the prestigious Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism. The Cronkite Endowment Board of Trustees selects the recipients.

2019  Lester Holt
2018  Anderson Cooper
2017  Judy Woodruff and Gwen Ifill
2016  Scott Pelley
2014  Robin Roberts
2013  Bob Schieffer
2012  Bob Costas
2011  Christiane Amanpour
2010  Diane Sawyer
2009  Brian Williams
2008  Jim Lehrer and Robert MacNeil
2007  Jane Pauley
2006  Tom Brokaw
2005  Dave Barry
2004  Charles Osgood
2003  Andy Rooney
2002  Al Michaels
2001  Bob Woodward
2000  Cokie Roberts
1999  Tom Johnson
1998  Ben Bradlee
1997  Roone Arledge
1996  Charles Kuralt
1995  Bill Moyers
1994  Bernard Shaw
1993  Helen Thomas
1992  Don Hewitt
1991  George Will
1990  Ted Turner
1989  Malcolm Forbes
1988  Allen H. Neuharth
1987  Katharine Graham
1986  Otis Chandler
1985  Bill Mauldin
1984  William Paley and Frank Stanton