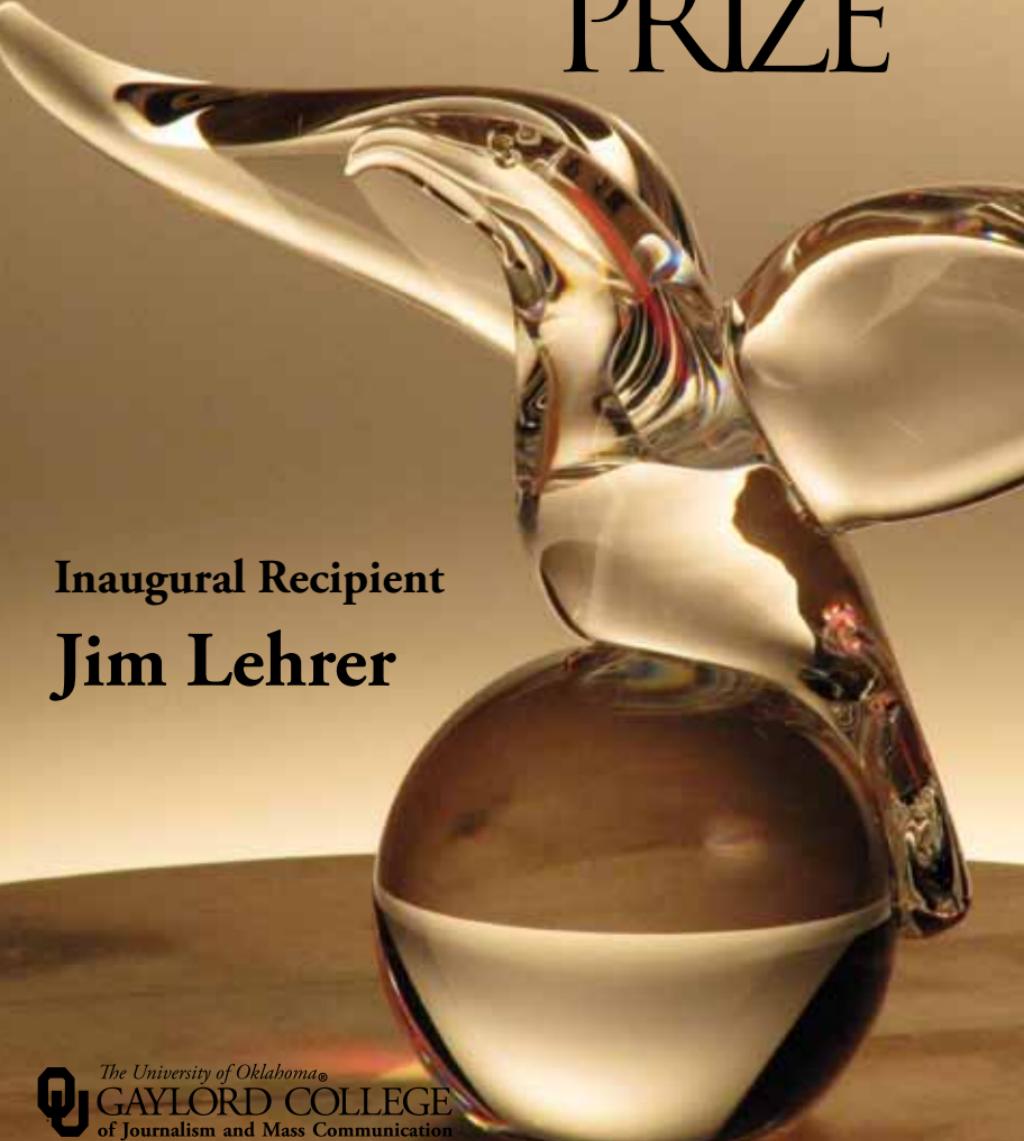




GAYLORD PRIZE



Inaugural Recipient
Jim Lehrer

THE GAYLORD PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

The Gaylord Prize for Excellence in Journalism and Mass Communication was inaugurated in 2008 and marks the start of a new tradition for the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma.

Each year the Gaylord Prize will honor a nationally recognized journalism and mass communication professional. The nominated prize recipient will be well known for a lengthy and distinguished career symbolized by high standards of excellence and immeasurable talent. We are pleased to have Jim Lehrer as our first recipient.

To be selected, candidates must:

- Have a distinguished career in journalism and mass communication represented by one of the Gaylord College's five majors (journalism, broadcasting and electronic media, advertising, public relations and professional writing).
- Be known nationally and/or internationally in their field.
- Represent high ethical standards and be a good role model for the next generation of journalism and mass communication professionals.

“Make sure that the first time the prize is awarded, that it is awarded to someone truly special, because the reputation and meaning of this Prize will be established with its first awarding.” ~ Edward L. Gaylord

DAVID L. BOREN'S COMMENTS ON THE INAUGURAL GAYLORD PRIZE

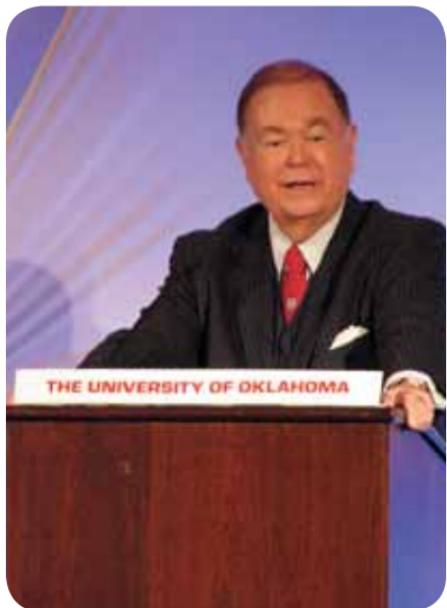
What a day for all of us as we celebrate this college. Imagine, since the school became a college: a 500 percent increase in the number of students, the highest retention and graduation rate at our college, and so many outstanding students.

When I see the outstanding performance of our students, I can't help but think to myself, this is a perfect day except for one thing. I wish that Ed and Thelma Gaylord were here, and I wish that Edith Gaylord were here, to see what has happened at this college.

Because this is the very reason what has happened. The excellence, the experience, all over the world, as well as in the United States, in all forms of media, preparing our students for the world that they live in to make a huge contribution for the world we live in. That's the reason, why Ed Gaylord turned to me over lunch, and I'll never forget it, its one of those memories that you have in your life that you never forget.

He said, "By the way," in his always understated way (and there's not a day I don't think about him), "By the way, would you mind if I gave you \$22 million to establish the School as a College of Journalism?" And I said, "That would be just fine."

He tried to pay for lunch that day. I said, "Well, I think its only fair that I pay for lunch," and, he said, "Yes, you are right, I don't have any money left to pay for lunch with."



*University of Oklahoma President
David L. Boren introduces Jim Lehrer*

We had a wonderful talk about what he envisioned, and the kind of students that would come from this college and he said, "I don't want it to be average; I want it to be great." I think you can tell we're achieving his dream.

He wanted people who would make a great contribution to this society, because he realized the contribution that journalism and the media make to all of us. Four generations of the Gaylord family have realized it and made that contribution in our state and have helped to draw us together as one community. We celebrate them today. We celebrate their generosity; their concern for young people; their desire that Oklahomans – because I know



Jim Lehrer talks with 2008-2009 Gaylord Ambassador co-chairs, Baxter Holmes and Shannon Miller.

how Ed felt, he felt that Oklahoma was a special place and that Oklahomans are very special people and that the talent that our young people have, with all that talent, with all those strong bedrock values – that they should have an opportunity unequalled, unexcelled, anyplace.

The family, going back to E.K. Gaylord, understood the role that the media plays in our society. I think the first time I ever really realized it or really thought about how important freedom of the press was, was when I was 22 years old, and I had the chance to travel behind, what was then called the Iron Curtain, into Eastern Europe that was then under Soviet domination. As we talked to young people our own ages, we realized the group of us American students, that we knew more about what was going on in their country, we knew what was going on in their prisons, we knew what was going on inside their government dominated by the Soviet Union, than they did because they

didn't have the freedom to be informed about what was going on in their own country.

If you ever want to keep a people enslaved, deny them knowledge, deny them the right to know what is going on in their own country. If you ever want to see a people come together as we come together in this country again and again, be it after Pearl Harbor, be it during the Great Depression, the challenges that we have faced in this country and overcome in this country then the critical role played by journalism must be understood, because it is only as we share a body of knowledge together that we all wake up in the morning, after we have seen the front page of the newspaper or heard some in-depth stories on radio and television – and this family, by the way, were not only pioneers in print journalism, they were pioneers in bringing the radio to Oklahoma and also in bringing television to Oklahoma as well, so that Oklahomans would wake up in the

morning and have a body of information and knowledge and be armed with that – so that as citizens, we knew what was going on, we knew what the issues were, we knew what the challenges were facing our country and we could unite as we always have, based upon our shared knowledge to meet any challenge and overcome it.

In this day in which we live, needless to say, we're facing challenges. The greatest that we've faced since the Great Depression and the times of World War II in our country. Never has our need to know, to be informed, to have a shared body of knowledge been more important.

And, so we celebrate today, a great College with a great faculty, and tremendous students. We celebrate the generosity that made it all possible – a generosity also based on the love of the

state and its people that is unparalleled – and we celebrate and recognize and determine to keep it strong, the role of the media and in journalism to inform us as people, so we can participate in solving the problems around us.

I said that this remarkable family has touched our state in so many ways. Not only the first two generations, who helped make so much possible, not only E.K. Gaylord and Inez, Ed and Thelma, and Edith, but the current generations of this family as well. Everywhere I look around the university, they have touched it.

Of course, Christie and Jim Everest have touched our university in so many ways. Christie serving as chair of our Board of Regents, and Jim serving on the board of the OU Foundation. They really, first among all, have led in an effort to establish



Dean Joe Foote, left, Molly Shi Boren, Jim Lehrer and President David L. Boren at the private reception before the inaugural Gaylord Prize banquet.

a national Cancer Center Institute here in Oklahoma so our people will not have to leave home to receive world class treatment and can be close to their families. And, Clay and Louise Bennett have joined in that effort in establishing professorships at the Cancer Institute.

The family of course established the Oklahoma Memorial Stadium as well as raising the College of Journalism to college status and providing us with facilities that are unmatched.

And, also, the OU Press, which was endowed by the late Edith Gaylord and the Energy Center of which Ed and Thelma Gaylord were founding members. And, so this family has done so much for us and continues to do so much for us and we are honored today that two generations of the Gaylord family continue that family legacy, and now the fourth generation are here with us today. And I'd just like for all the members of the Gaylord family who

are present to please stand and let us thank them for what they have done for the state of Oklahoma. Would you all please stand?

And also helping to carry on this family's tradition, particularly in the name of Edith Gaylord, is the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation which has continued to join with the work that the Gaylord family started in the name of Edith Gaylord, who established that foundation, chaired by Bill Ross with Bob Ross as president. I know there are several members of the advisory board of the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation here today. Will you all stand, all of you from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation and let us thank you?

This prize was a part of the conversation that day over lunch in which the gift of Ed Gaylord and his family established this college. He wanted not only to provide facilities and faculty and experiences to touch the lives of our students, he also wanted to recognize outstanding leaders in the profession, who would be role models, and who would inspire our students in the future. And so, the idea of the Gaylord Prize was born.

And the only thing he ever said to me – because at universities you have high-maintenance donors and I'll leave that to your imagination – and low-maintenance donors, who give very few instructions and just want to help students – Ed Gaylord was a low-maintenance donor. He never asked about establishing a particular course or hiring particular faculty members, the only request he ever made of me was that



President David L. Boren presents Jim Lehrer with the inaugural Gaylord Prize, Nov. 17, 2008 at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel.

“the right wing of the building be larger than the left wing.”

I hope that he is not disturbed that Edith’s foundation along with this generation of the Gaylord family are now making the left wing of the building equally as large as the right wing of the College.

But he wanted this prize, he said to me, “Just be sure that the first time the prize is awarded, that

it is awarded to someone truly special, because the reputation and meaning of this prize will be established with its first awarding.” He gave me that very sound advice and the selection committee has followed that advice just exactly in selecting our award recipient today.

There could not be a more appropriate first recipient of the Gaylord Prize than Jim Lehrer. No journalist in America is more respected or sets higher standards than he does. He is an Emmy and Peabody award-winning journalist was chosen to moderate Presidential debates for the past five elections and again this year with the first Presidential debate bringing the total to 11 Presidential and Vice Presidential debates that he has been chosen to moderate because of his recognized fairness by those across the entire political spectrum. He is trusted to be fair. Trusted with that responsibility so important to our political process.

His long-term partnership with Robin



Dean Joe Foote welcomed everyone to the Gaylord Prize event and shared student accomplishments in a video presentation.

McNeil began in the 1970s when they teamed to cover the Senate Watergate hearings and received an Emmy award for their work. Then they paired officially for the McNeil-Lehrer Report in 1976 and together received more than 30 awards for journalistic excellence. After 20 years on the air, Mr. McNeil retired in 1996 and the show became the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

Mr. Lehrer is an accomplished novelist and playwright and has written a successful book series about a fictitious Lt. Governor, and Lt. Gov. I emphasize fictional, of the state of Oklahoma with locations set in the state capitol and yes, locations set in the Skirvin Hotel. So how appropriate we are to be in this reborn hotel today. The most recent installment “Mack to the Rescue” was released in April and I am proud to say was published by the OU Press. His 19th novel, “Oh Johnny,” which we were hearing about at breakfast this morning, but not the ending, so I will have to read



Journalism freshman, Chinh Doan, talks with Mr. Lehrer after the banquet while Journal Record reporter Janice Francis-Smith waits.

the book. Nineteen novels and this one will be out in April.

He was born in Wichita, Kansas and received his associate degree from Victoria College and Bachelor's in Journalism in 1956 from University of Missouri before joining the Marine Corp. He began his journalism career as a print journalist with the Dallas Morning News and the Dallas Times Herald before he went into broadcast journalism with KERA in Dallas. He later moved to Washington first as a public affairs coordinator for KERA then as a correspondent for the National Public Affairs Center for Television. In 1999, the National Humanities Medal was presented to him and he was inducted into the television hall of fame. I mentioned one Emmy, he has won two Emmy's, won the Fred Friendly First Amendment Award, the George Foster Peabody Award, the William Allen White Foundation award, and is on his way to receive the Walter Cronkite Award. I pointed out to him that WC was the first voice of the Sooners on

the radio.

He was elected in 1991 a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; he was the OU's first commencement speaker, in 1996, after I came to the University and OU conferred upon him its highest honor, the honorary doctorate of humane letters.

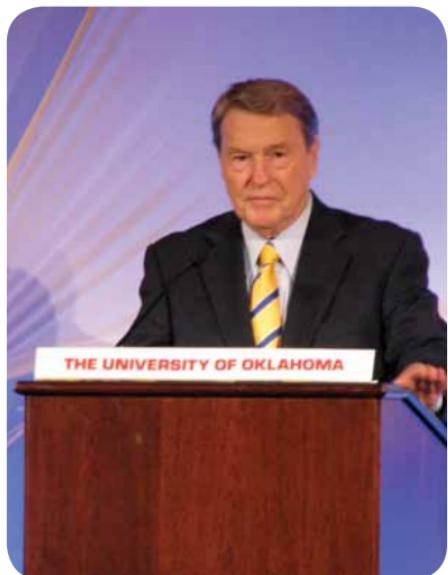
The Gaylord family designated the recipients of the Gaylord Prize to receive a \$25,000 cash award and this Steuben Glass eagle. This eagle is special to this family. It was special to Edward L. Gaylord because to him it represented the value of freedom in our society and the importance of love of country.

As he joins me at the podium, please help me honor, one of America's most respected journalists and a real friend of the state of Oklahoma. The first recipient of the Gaylord Prize, Mr. Jim Lehrer.

MR. JIM LEHRER'S COMMENTS UPON RECEIVING THE INAUGURAL GAYLORD PRIZE

I have many, many wonderful fond memories of the Boren's, Molly and David, of the University of Oklahoma including the one I just recounted and of course Oklahoma itself. My mother was born in a place I doubt many of you have heard of, Phillips Oklahoma, now a ghost town between Atoka and Coalgate in coal mining country. Her father, my grandfather, was an evangelist, a traveling preacher and they just happened to stop in Phillips to preach and the baby was born. But she was a very openly declared Oklahoman and very proud of it. And I bear that Oklahoma strand in my blood with great pleasure.

I also have great memories of the Skirvin Hotel. I stayed here and wrote a lot of the "Mack" books here. I know you have all read them, there are seven of them now. If you haven't, you've got a lot of work to do. You'll see all through them events that take place at the "Park Plaza Hotel" but it is really the Skirvin. I changed it for reasons I don't remember. Because they closed it down for a few years and have always lived in fear that they were going to tear it down. But they didn't. I was amazed when I cam back here to see how it looks. It looks exactly how it looked when I was here in the 70s. It is just like another coming home for me in the best sense.



Jim Lehrer, PBS's NewsHour

I don't know how to express...you know I am supposed to be a person of words, but people that use words sometimes are the most inarticulate about things that mean a lot...I tell you that winning for me, the Gaylord Prize means everything to me because of the specialness of it and how it relates. I had a conversation with David Boren when he was first talking about it with the Gaylord College and we just chatted about it. I have always felt part of the incubation process that led to this incredible...I am just as impressed as anybody with a couple of things...That tape for one thing and the students I have talked to and will talk to

“I don’t have to tell you that we are in the middle of a revolution in the world of journalism: a revolution about the work itself, the mission, and the whole world of journalism.”

- Jim Lehrer

some more today and tomorrow.

Baxter and Shannon I have spent some time with because they were assigned to take care of me and I have talked to them a lot. But I realize that the Gaylord spirit of journalism lives deeply among you all, the young folks and, the not so young folks that have guided them to where they are in journalism. And I am really, really proud to be a Gaylord Prize winner and the first Gaylord Prize winner.

I have said that Shannon and Baxter have talked about all sorts of things and have talked about being on television

and that sort of thing. Do you ever get used to what happens to you when you go on television. Nobody has ever put a gun to my head saying you have to go on television to be recognized. I tell them about the 7-11 rule: that some people go on television and they are recognized at the 7-11 and their life changes forever and they never get over it.

The great thing that I have been able to do through public broadcasting and through all the wonderful people I have worked with that has allowed me to practice journalism the way I wanted to practice it. It is exactly the same kinds of things that you are learning.

I don’t have to tell you that we are in the middle of a revolution in the world of journalism: a revolution about the work itself, the mission, and the whole world of journalism. I also don’t have to tell you



Robert J. Ross, president and CEO of the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, with Jim Lehrer at the private reception before the inaugural Gaylord Prize banquet.



Jim Lehrer addresses the more than 400 people attending the inaugural Gaylord Prize.

that sometimes being in a revolution is difficult for some of the people involved. The noises you all hear from newsrooms and often from boardrooms nearby are screams of panic. Newspaper circulation and profits are down, so are the ratings of nightly news programs. Sound the alarms! Cable News, Internet bloggers, and the satellites and other radio talk show shouters, and the late night comedians are teaming up with Yahoos and Googles and mp3s and iPods and other strange things to put us out of business. Help, help they say! Please, please save us!

Well what I have to say to my fellow and sisters in the world of journalism is, “Calm Down.” I have said to more than one gathering of my fellow and sister journalists, is “what we have to fear most is fear itself.”

I think we need to look at a few basics that are critical. Bloggers are talkers. They are commentators. They are not reporters. Talk show hosts are reactors. They’re commentators. They are not reporters. The comedians are entertainers, commentators, not reporters. Search engines do not

report, they search. The iPods and mp3s are mere machines, as in cable television and satellite radio. All of them, every single one of them have to have the news to exist, to thrive. To put in a simpler way, in the beginning, there is always a news story.

“What I have to say to my fellow and sisters in the world of journalism is, “Calm Down.”

— Jim Lehrer

David Letterman tells a joke about Sarah Palin and her clothes, or Joe Biden and his gaffs. No one is going to laugh if they don’t know about Sarah Palin’s clothes or Joe Biden’s gaffs. Jon Stewart makes up a news story and everybody laughs, but they’re not going to get it unless they know what the real news story was to begin with. A blogger or radio talker comes on talking about a lobbying scandal or a wild man from Iran or someone named Abramoff or Michael Brown or Michael Rumsfeld or Hilary Clinton or Valerie Plame or someone named Ahmadinejad; they and their readers need to know who

these people are and what the fuss is all about or it's not going to work.

And what about the route they travel to get to the blogger, the screamer, the comedian, the cable TV commentator, the opinionator, the search engine, the whatever. It has to start with one of us, one of us "boring reporters," one of us journalists who was there, one of us who read the original document, one of us who did the original interview, one of us who got the original leak, one of us who did what it took to make it original news in the first place, to bring it to the attention of all others in the information and reaction food chain.

And thus, we the boring ones of journalism must keep our eye on the ball, we must not stray from some of the basics that make us unique from all of those others, by going with stories before they are ready, spicing them up a bit with a little over the line commentary, raising the volume, and worst of all, making entertaining people one of our purposes.

I tell people all the time that if you want to be entertained, go to the circus, don't watch the News Hour. I don't want anyone to confuse the news with entertainment and I never want anyone to confuse me with the clowns. Besides by sticking to our journalistic guns, we have the non-clown, non-shout, pro straight reporting field of journalism all to ourselves, if we, to coin another phrase, stay the course.

For the record, my colleagues and I at the News Hour have a course to stay. Sometime ago, I was asked by organizers

of a seminar at the Astor Institute on Journalism if I had some guidelines that I used in my own personal practice of journalism, and if I did, would I mind sharing them. Well here is part of what I sent them:

Lehrer's Guidelines

1. Do nothing I cannot defend.
2. Cover, write and present every story with the care I would want if the story were about me.
3. Assume there is at least one other side or version to every story.
4. Assume the viewer is as smart, as a caring, and as good of a person as I am.
5. Assume the same about all people on whom I report.
6. Assume personal lives are a private matter until a legitimate turn in the story absolutely mandates otherwise.
7. Carefully separate opinion and analysis from straight news stories and clearly label everything.
8. Do not use anonymous sources or blind quotes except on rare and monumental occasions.
9. No one should ever be allowed to attack another anonymously.
10. Finally, I am not in the entertainment business.

Those are my guidelines.

Staying our course in journalism does not mean we should not adjust to the new information environment. To the revolution. There are technological

and cultural developments that are revolutionizing the way our good, solid, needed news is delivered and distributed. Most newspapers, while sticking with their core mission to report the news are already, some in desperation, others with quiet acknowledgement of reality, trying bold things with the Internet and other technologies to amortize their news collecting cost, and to spread their reach beyond traditional ink on paper newspaper delivered to the front door or newsstand.

Television networks, news programs, including our own are making segments on demand for iPods and other kinds of pods, partnerships between and among various media delivery methods are proliferating and more and more are to come because that's the way it has to be.

My point is simply that in the rush to modernize, to innovate, to survive in the

new environments, that we don't lose sight of our purpose. That whatever the delivery system and the information platform, as they are called now, we, the journalists, are there to cover and report the news in a straight and professional way.

Whether the news consumer is an old fogie reading the newspaper in the library, in front of a fireplace, or a fourteen year old getting the latest on a pink iPod with her name engraved on the case, the story, the first story, the straight news story, the investigative story, from which all commentary screams and jokes flow, should be professionally and politically straight, because they originated in the eyes, ears, judgments and presentations of people who simply report the news for a living, if not a calling.

I would only ask that you consider, all of you here in Oklahoma City and the



More than 100 students from the University of Oklahoma attended the banquet held at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City.

state of Oklahoma, along with most other Americans, to know about your world, what's happening on the ground and on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan and at the White House, on and off the floor at the House and Senate of Washington, at State Capitols

here in Oklahoma City and throughout the country, and city halls and county courthouses, and yes, school board meetings, political rallies, presidential nomination races, presidential transitions, also at the Supreme Court, the Federal Reserve, the Departments of Justice, Defense, Veteran Affairs, and all other bureaucracy everywhere at all levels.

About electronic surveillance, civil and privacy rights, weapons of mass and small destruction, beliefs and faiths, mainstream and offbeat, global warming and carbon emissions, and about economics and finance, and crises of various kinds under now. Think about most everything out there in the world that matters up close or far away. Most straight knowledge of it all, comes first and foremost from the people who simply report the news.

And it is not only about our reporting. There's also evidence that the news gatekeepers are not only not going away, but coming back big time. There's an increasing amount of news noise, noise about the news, out there on the blogosphere, and the satellite iPod, and

all kinds of other spheres. People are busy. They want some professional, unbiased, unagenda assistance to sort through it all, to help determine what's important, and what is not so important, before they go off to the editorial page or the commentators or to be shouted

at or entertained about. That is what we journalists have always done.

There's no question that the nature of the machinery and looks of the gatekeepers must change, but like it or not, there will always be a need for animals like television anchors who announce the end result of the story sorting, they just won't be mostly old white men as they are now. The major problem we mainstream gatekeepers have now is a loss of the substantial credibility and trust that it takes to do our work effectively. The major problem are arrogance, among other things, one of our major problems is arrogance that has gotten in our way. That is fixable.

I happen to believe there's nothing wrong with a basic practice of journalism in America today that a little humility that a lot of professionalism and transparency could not cure. Along with the realization, or re-realization, that journalism is still about the story.

Newspaper owners and network executives and Wall Street financiers most be in on this as well, of course. They too must remember that of which Thomas

“Bloggers are talkers. They are commentators. They are not reporters. Talk show hosts are reactors. They're commentators. They are not reporters. The comedians are entertainers, commentators, not reporters.”

- Jim Lehrer

Jefferson said, "Our democratic society will only work if we have an informed electorate." And, that means being dependent on us, the journalists, to report the information from which opinions and informed votes flow. It also means leaving the huge profits to the search engines, as well as the shouting to the shouters, and the entertaining to the clowns.

I would say again to all of you, thank you. Thank you for being here today. Thank you for being here with me while I received this incredible award. Being the first recipient of the Gaylord Prize means much to me and I will always remember this.

The only thing I do want to say to the young journalists here, it may run counter

to the message you've received thus far. I do not believe based on looking at the tape, I do not believe it is essential for a successful career in journalism that could lead to an award like the Gaylord Prize, I don't think it's a requirement that you bungee jump, the rest of it is fine.

The personal things about this day, I mentioned at the beginning, the Borens, Molly & David, are old friends. There's another old friend here, Devere Pearson. Devere is a fat-cat Washington lawyer, but he grew up in Oklahoma, educated in Oklahoma. Devere introduced us to David & Molly at a party in Washington. Not one of those elite Georgetown dinner parties, no. It was an elite dinner party in what's called, Kenwood.



Jim Lehrer signed copies of his "Mack to the Rescue" book after the banquet.



ABOVE: Jim Lehrer spoke to Dr. Peter Gade's journalism class (above) and several others during the two days he was in Norman. BELOW: Before the Gaylord Prize Banquet the OU Nightly team interviewed Mr. Lehrer about his career and the future of journalism. Anchor, Shannon Miller (right) led the interview and Tom Gunter (far left) and Aaron Canard (far right) served as videographers.



There's all kinds of connections I have here. I will remember this event forever. And to you younger folks, or older folks contemplating the world of journalism, I would cite to you, in all humility, I have the best job. I can't imagine making a living any differently than the one I made now.

I have been present for the last 40 years to every major event that has happened in the world. I don't mean present literally on the ground, I mean present intellectually, in talking about it, staying informed.

I have met all kinds of interesting people. Robert McNeil was asked one time what's the worst thing about your job. He said, "taking seriously people that you wouldn't normally take seriously." Think about it.

But the glory for me, is that I have over time, I will tell young folks that some of the oldest people I know are 23 years old. Some of the youngest people I know are 74 years old. Journalism is little boy, little girl work. If you're in a room like this and you hear a fire engine, you hear a siren and the fire engine goes by and you don't want to know where it is going, don't go into journalism. And the time that you stop caring where the fire engine is going, that's the time to get out of it.

It is an exciting thing and I'll repeat one thing I told Baxter [Holmes] and Shannon [Miller] earlier, this is really important stuff we're doing. I quoted Thomas Jefferson, you know Jefferson had it right, you have got to have an informed society and he and the founders worked all that out, but then the only way they provided to be informed

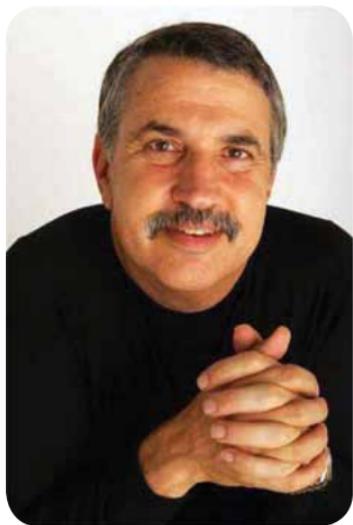
was the First Amendment and left the rest of it to us, to the professional journalists.

And when somebody goes to the courthouse, in Ada, Oklahoma, or city hall in Paul's Valley, or goes to the United States Senate in Washington, goes to the United Nations to an economic summit. Anywhere a reporter goes, that information goes through a process within the Democratic society. Without that information, this whole thing isn't going to work.

And everyone who wants to work in journalism, who thinks they want to work in journalism, everyone who cares about the receiving end of journalism, in other words, consumers, those who read and watch always have to keep that in mind, that at the beginning is a new story, like I said, but at the end there is also a new story because it's the information you receive from the stories that cause democratic societies to make decisions that the polls and else where that result in the country we have and in what the country does and does not do. On that very serious note, again, thank you, I am very honored by this Prize and I am honored to be with all of you.

2009 Gaylord Prize Recipient

Thomas L. Friedman



Thomas L. Friedman, a world-renowned author and journalist, joined The New York Times in 1981 as a financial reporter specializing in OPEC- and oil-related news and later served as the chief diplomatic, chief White House, and international economics correspondents. A three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, he has traveled hundreds of thousands of miles reporting the Middle East conflict, the end of the cold war, U.S. domestic politics and foreign policy, international economics, and the worldwide impact of the terrorist threat. His foreign affairs column, which appears twice a week in the Times, is syndicated to one hundred other newspapers worldwide.

Friedman is the author of “From Beirut to Jerusalem” (FSG, 1989), which won both the National Book Award and the Overseas Press Club Award in 1989 and was on the New York Times bestseller list for nearly twelve months. “From Beirut to Jerusalem” has been published in more than twenty-seven languages, including Chinese and Japanese, and is now used as a basic textbook on the Middle East in many high schools and universities.

Friedman also wrote “The Lexus and the Olive Tree” (FSG, 1999), one of the best selling business books in 1999, and the winner of the 2000 Overseas Press Club Award for best nonfiction book on foreign policy. It is now available in twenty languages. His last book, “Longitudes and Attitudes: Exploring the World After September 11,” issued by FSG in 2002, consists of columns Friedman published about September 11 as well as a diary of his private experiences and reflections during his reporting on the post-September 11 world as he traveled from Afghanistan to Israel to Europe to Indonesia to Saudi Arabia. In 2005, “The World Is Flat” was given the first Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award, and Friedman was named one of America’s Best Leaders by U.S. News & World Report.

Friedman graduated summa cum laude from Brandeis University with a degree in Mediterranean studies and received a master’s degree in modern Middle East studies from Oxford. He has served as a visiting professor at Harvard University and has been awarded honorary degrees from several U.S. universities. He lives in Bethesda, Maryland, with his wife, Ann, and their two daughters.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Monday, Dec. 7, 2009

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

for the
Second Annual
Gaylord Prize for Excellence in
Journalism and Mass Communication

Honoring
Mr. Thomas L. Friedman
Pulitzer Prize winning author and journalist

Sheraton Oklahoma City Hotel
1 North Broadway, Oklahoma City

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