

Charles R. E. Lewis Doctor of Humanities

Pioneering investigative journalist, you began your career as a reporter at ABC News and later became an award-winning producer for the CBS news program *60 Minutes*. In 1989 you founded the Center for Public Integrity, a nonprofit, nonpartisan watchdog organization that investigates political influence, corruption, and other ethics-related issues.

While leading CPI, you have continued your mission as an active journalist, writing countless articles and publishing six books, including the bestseller *The Buying of the President 2004*. Your work has earned you Emmy nominations, a MacArthur Fellowship, and a PEN USA First Amendment Award.

You have further spread your innovative approach to journalism by developing the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and establishing a new nonprofit organization, Global Integrity, to monitor corruption and governance in countries all over the world. You currently serve as president and chief executive officer of the nonprofit Fund for Independence in Journalism, which you created to foster independent, high-quality public service journalism.

You have been called “the Paul Revere of our time” and praised for “boldly exercising” your freedom of speech and freedom of the press. “If Lewis didn’t exist,” the *Chicago Tribune* has said, “somebody would have to invent him.”

Dedicated teacher and mentor, you give freely of your time and expertise to the next generation of journalists, policymakers, and citizens. You have guest lectured at more than two dozen major colleges and universities throughout the nation, including here at UD. You were a Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University, a consultant to the Carter Center in Atlanta, and a Shorenstein Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. You are now Distinguished Journalist in Residence and founding executive editor of the new Investigative Reporting Workshop at the American University School of Communication in Washington, D.C.

Loyal Blue Hen, born and raised in Newark, you earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with Distinction from the University of Delaware in 1975 and went on to complete a Master of Arts degree at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Although your career as a journalist took you away from Delaware physically, your hometown, home state, and alma mater have remained in your heart.

In honor of your mentor, UD Professor Emeritus James Soles, in 1998 you established the James R. Soles Fellowship to support internships for two UD students each year at the Center for Public Integrity. You take a personal interest in these students and continue to mentor them long after they complete their internships. You also played an active role in the formation and development of the James R. Soles Citizenship Endowment, which funds the Soles Professorship in Political Science and supports the public service education of undergraduate and graduate students at the University. In 2001 you were recognized on the UD Alumni Wall of Fame.

One of your heroes, President Abraham Lincoln, famously said, “I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.” That same confidence in the people has inspired you throughout your distinguished career, and our nation and our world are better because you have acted on that belief.