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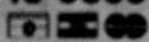
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the class of 1996

Famous NBC anchor to speak to grads

*Ann Curry, a
University graduate
and anchor for NBC,
will speak to graduates
at the commencement
ceremony this year*

By Elisabeth Forsythe
Freelance Reporter

Ann Curry, a famous University graduate, will give the commencement speech to graduates June 15.

Curry, a news anchor for NBC, graduated with a degree in journalism from the University in 1978. Since the start of her career in Medford at KTVL-TV, she has risen to anchor NBC's *News at Sunrise* for five years.

During her successful career, the 39-year-old has received two Emmys and will receive the University Alumni Association's 1996 Young Alumna Award at a pre-commencement brunch. Her accomplishments in the media business are part of what makes her important as a keynote speaker.

"We are delighted to have Ann Curry as our speaker," University President Dave Frohn-mayer said. "Ann serves as a tremendous role model for all of

our graduates — her success in the extremely competitive world of network news proves the value of a University of Oregon education."

President Frohn-mayer's sentiments are echoed by University spokeswoman Maureen Shine.

"Certainly Ann Curry is one of our most notable graduates. She has been very successful in a very competitive field. She is someone the students can relate to, someone who can inspire them and give them good information."

Curry worked her way through college with scholarships, work-study and summer jobs. After graduation, she became the evening news anchor at KTVL, the NBC affiliate in Medford. From there she moved to Portland's KGW, another NBC affiliate. She transferred in 1984 to KCBS in Los Angeles, and from there she became the Chicago correspondent for NBC News.

She is now the anchor on *News at Sunrise*, and contributes to NBC's *Nightly News* and *Today*.

Curry's stories since joining NBC have been gritty and current. She covered the Gulf War in 1991, and other topics have ranged from poverty and violence in the inner cities to AIDS and gay political power.

“

*The University of Oregon
gave me the foundation I
needed to launch my career...
It also gave me direction and
a sense of purpose.*

— Ann Curry
NBC Anchor

”

In 1987 she won an Emmy for her coverage of the Los Angeles earthquake. She received a second Emmy in 1989 for her coverage of a San Bernadino gas pipeline explosion. She credits her success in part to her education at the University.

"The University of Oregon gave me the foundation I needed to launch my career," Curry said. "If I hadn't graduated from the UO, I would not be here today. It also gave me direction and a sense of purpose."

Part of that purpose was instilled by retired University professor Ken Metzler, who gave her a piece of metal type that reads, "Honoring Ann Curry, Genius, J-321, 1977," for a good answer she gave during class.

"I don't think I'm a genius, but he made me feel like one, and it helped me get where I am today because it helped me believe in myself," said Curry.

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