



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Rodney L. Nordland '72



To Rodney Nordland for representing the highest degree of responsibility, duty, and integrity in his distinguished career reporting events from around the world.

Consider some of the biggest stories of the past 35 years—Watergate, Three Mile Island, AIDS, terrorism, Iraq—and chances are Rod Nordland had a hand in reporting them, first for *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and since 1984 for *Newsweek* where he's currently chief foreign correspondent. Since his days as a *Daily Collegian* reporter at Penn State, Nordland's work has been recognized with the top prizes in journalism including a Pulitzer Prize he shared with other *Philadelphia Inquirer* staff in 1980 for reporting on the Three Mile Island nuclear crisis.

By the early 1980s, Nordland had become a foreign correspondent while still with the *Inquirer*, first covering Southeast Asia from his base in Bangkok and later as a correspondent for Central America. He won a 1982 George Polk Special Award for his reporting from Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand and was an individual finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in foreign correspondence the same year.

Nordland joined *Newsweek* in 1984 as their Middle East bureau chief based in Beirut. Following an unsuccessful attempt by terrorists to take him hostage, Nordland was based in Cairo. Among world leaders he has interviewed are King Hussein of Jordan, PLO leader Yasir Arafat, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Long before the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Nordland spent two months inside Middle East terrorist camps, resulting in the 1986 *Newsweek* cover story "America is our Target" and his second George Polk Award for international reporting.

In addition to the Middle East, Nordland also served as *Newsweek's* Balkans bureau chief and Rome bureau chief. He has been a lead reporter or author of more than 50 cover stories for *Newsweek* including "The Next Chernobyl," a special report on the world's most dangerous nuclear facilities; "10 Million Orphans," a cover story on AIDS in Africa; and "Death of a Village," on the effects of Serbian ethnic cleansing on a town in Bosnia. "Death of a Village" earned him the Amnesty International Press Award and the National Press Club's Edwin Hood Award for Diplomatic Correspondence, both in 1997.

To date, Nordland has filed stories from more than 120 countries. His recent assignments include extensive reporting on the war in Afghanistan and terrorist links in that country and Pakistan. In 2003, soon after the start of the Iraq war, *Newsweek* named him Baghdad bureau chief, a position he held for more than two years. In 2004, Nordland's reporting from Iraq was noted when *Newsweek* won its 10th National Magazine Award for General Excellence.

According to *Newsweek*, Nordland is one of a breed of correspondents at the magazine who are able to drop in on a story with very little warning, in hostile climes, and report on it brilliantly.

In addition to his award-winning reporting, Nordland wrote the book, *Names and Numbers: A Journalist's Guide to the Most Needed Information Sources and Contacts*, and was editor of *The Watergate Files*. He spent 1988–89 as a Neiman Fellow and visiting scholar at Harvard University.

For Penn State, Nordland has served as a moderator for a College of Communications summer session symposium and contributed to the 1970s

section of *The Collegian Chronicles*, a history of Penn State as seen from the pages of the student newspaper. Penn State previously honored Nordland with the Alumni Fellow Award in 1990.

A Philadelphia native, Nordland now lives in London with his wife and three children.

