

Ward Schenk Curran

Trinity College Class of 1957

Born and raised in Springfield, Illinois, you distinguished yourself at Trinity not only academically, but athletically. A formidable tackle, you were a member of the undefeated football teams of 1954 and 1955. After graduating from Trinity, you earned your M.A. in 1958 and Ph.D. three years later, both at Columbia University. In 1960, while you were completing your doctoral research, you returned to Trinity and joined the economics faculty as an instructor.

In the ensuing 52 years you have held the positions of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, George M. Ferris Professor of Corporation Finance and Investments, and Ward S. Curran Distinguished Professor of Economics. Repeatedly, over the years, you have chaired the Department of Economics. Currently, you are serving as secretary of the College.

You are an active member of the American Economic Association, the American Finance Association, and the Financial Management Association, for which you have been a member of the program committee three times and served as a referee for the journal *Financial Management*.

During the 1960s, '70s and '80s, you held a number of special appointments at area universities. You were a visiting associate professor of economics and visiting professor of economics at Wesleyan; a visiting lecturer at the University of Connecticut School of Law, where you taught the history of anti-trust regulation and law; and a visiting lecturer and visiting professor in the Department of Economics at Yale through 2006, where you taught a popular undergraduate introduction to finance, which you originally developed and continued to teach at Trinity. In later years, you developed a senior seminar in corporate finance at Yale, while also teaching a senior seminar on the economics of financial regulation at Trinity.

Your commitment to students did not end with your engagement in their undergraduate education, however. When it comes to helping undergraduates make the transition to graduate or professional school, few professors have been of greater service to those they taught.

From 1971 to 1973, you served as director of institutional planning for Trinity while you were also a member of the Governor's Commission on the Master Plan for Higher Education in Connecticut. You contributed to the final report of the Sloan Study Project that produced the study *Paying for College, Financing Education at Nine Private Institutions* and which later expanded to become the Consortium on the Financing of Higher Education. Additionally, you have had many consulting assignments in both business and higher education.

While successfully managing the responsibilities of those myriad appointments and your primary teaching responsibilities, you also found time to produce a solid body of scholarly publications, including three books and several articles, and, for four years during the 1980s, were the book review editor for *The Financial Review*.

Finally, it is worth noting that more than half a century removed from your Midwest roots, you have never relinquished your connections to your home state. A lifelong fan of the Saint Louis Cardinals, you are also a self-taught authority on Springfield's most famous citizen, President Abraham Lincoln. A beneficiary of the Scholarships for Illinois Residents, you have paid back that program's investment in your education many times over.

For your long and distinguished service to your profession, your students, and Trinity, I have the honor of presenting you, Ward Schenk Curran, for the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

James F. Jones, Jr.
President and Trinity College
Professor in the Humanities

Paul E. Raether '68
Chairman
Trinity College Board of Trustees

May 20, 2012

Ingrid Mary Mattson

While you were a senior at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, you underwent the sort of life-changing experience that dramatically exemplifies the value of a liberal arts education.

During a trip to Paris, you became friends with a group of Senegalese expatriates. So compelling was that experience—getting to know the Senegalese and, through them, to begin understanding the Muslim faith—that within a year you had converted to Islam. By 1987, you had travelled to Pakistan. There, as a volunteer, you developed a midwife-training program for Afghan refugee women. It was also there that you met and married a fellow volunteer, Amer Atek, an engineer from Egypt.

When you returned to North America, you embarked upon formal Islamic studies at the University of Chicago, focusing especially upon Islamic ethics and law, religious leadership, and the Qur'an. In 1999 you were awarded your Ph.D.

You have written many articles in which such issues as slavery, poverty, adoption, and charity serve as lenses to explore leadership, gender, and the relationship between Islamic law and society in contemporary Muslim communities. Your book, *The Story of the Qur'an: its history and place in Muslim Life*, was published in 2007 and has been applauded for both its accessibility and its rich scholarship. Praised by the *Journal of Islamic Studies* as “a stimulating and scholarly account of Islam, focusing on the Qur'an,” it has become a highly respected and widely used text.

After completing your doctorate, you became active in Islamic education in your native Canada where, in 2001, you were elected vice president of the Islamic Society of North America. It was during that time that you were an adviser on the award-winning PBS documentary *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet*. In 2006, after serving two terms as vice president, you became the first woman, and first convert, to serve as president of the Islamic Society of North America, and you were re-elected in 2008.

That year you became a member of the Council of Global Leaders of the C-100 of the World Economic Forum. From 2009 to 2010 you also served as a member of the Interfaith Task Force of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. You are currently a senior fellow of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Amman, Jordan. And you are frequently consulted by governments, media, and civic organizations on a host of Islamic issues.

Since 1998, you have been a professor of Islamic Studies at the Hartford Seminary, where you founded the Islamic Chaplaincy Program and where you direct the Duncan Black Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. And you will shortly return to your native Canada as the first London and Windsor Community Chair in Islamic Studies in the Theology Department of Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario.

For your service to Islamic communities worldwide, your distinguished scholarship, and your ongoing commitment to fostering social progress within the Islamic world and understanding and cooperation between that world and other cultures, I have the honor of presenting you, Ingrid Mary Mattson, for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

James F. Jones, Jr.
President and Trinity College
Professor in the Humanities

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May 20, 2012

Anne Fadiman

The daughter of the prominent author, editor, and broadcast media personality Clifton Fadiman and the World War II correspondent and author Annalee Fadiman, it is not surprising that you would pursue a career in writing and editing.

With this strong background, you embarked upon that career after graduating from Radcliffe College at Harvard University in 1975. Once a staff writer for *Life* magazine, you have written for many other prominent publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. Your work has won National Magazine Awards twice.

You were a founding editor of the prestigious Library of Congress magazine *Civilization*, and from 1988 to 2004 you edited *The American Scholar*, the quarterly journal published by the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Under your editorship, that publication won three National Magazine Awards and was nominated eight other times. In 2003, you were chosen to serve as editor of *Best American Essays*, a role that is filled by a different prominent writer each year.

In 1997, your first book, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for General Nonfiction, the Salon Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, and the Boston Book Review Award. It is a scrupulously researched chronicle of the Lee family, Hmong refugees from Laos who settled in California, and their interactions with the American medical system. It was the book that all of Trinity's Class of 2012 read as they began their college experience.

In the 15 years since it was published, it has become an exemplar of contemporary nonfiction writing. Colleges, libraries, and communities across the country routinely use it for their first-year reading experience and all-read programs. Three years ago, it was selected by the Young Adult Library Association as one of its recommended titles for all students. It is widely taught in universities as literary journalism and as a study of cross-cultural sensitivity. In addition to its literary importance, it has had an impact upon the medical profession and is widely read by healthcare providers who serve patients from other cultures.

You are also the author of two books of essays—*Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader*, published in 1998, and *At Large and At Small: Familiar Essays*, published in 2007. And you served as editor of the book *Rereadings: Seventeen Writers Revisit Books They Love*, published in 2005.

Since 2005, you have been Yale University's first Francis Writer in Residence. The position is Yale's first endowed appointment in nonfiction writing, and you wear two hats—professor in the English department and mentor to students who are contemplating careers in writing or editing.

For your tireless service to the profession of letters and your belief in the power of journalism to illuminate and improve the human condition, I have the honor of presenting you, Anne Fadiman, for the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

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