

Press Release

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Contact: Jessica Mackinnon, director of public information
(708) 524-6289, jmack@dom.edu

Dominican University Presents CNN Chief International Correspondent Clarissa Ward

River Forest, IL- Dominican University presents CNN Chief International Correspondent Clarissa Ward in the Annual Georgie Anne Geyer Lecture on Wednesday, October 2. Ward will share her experiences reporting from hot spots around the world at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 7900 W. Division Street.

Ward joined CNN in 2015, after serving as a war correspondent for CBS News and ABC News, where she reported from Moscow and Beijing. One of the first Western journalists to gain access to the Taliban in Afghanistan, Ward recently provided a startling behind-the-scenes look at the militant group in CNN's special report, "36 Hours with the Taliban." In August, she was targeted by a Russian propaganda organization for her investigative report uncovering Putin's secret, private army in the Central African Republic. Her 2018 report with CNN colleagues, "Shadow Over Europe," focused on the rise of anti-Semitism in Poland, Germany and France.

Ward has reported from the frontlines of Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Ukraine and Georgia, during the Russian incursion in 2008. She reported behind rebel lines for her award-winning series, "Undercover in Syria," and fronted a special report, "Syria: Still Gasping for Life in Khan Sheikhou." Based on her extensive experience in Syria, Ward was asked in August, 2016 to address a United Nations Security Council meeting on the embattled city of Aleppo.

In 2017, Ward gained rare access to Yemen, where she witnessed the humanitarian crisis that continues today. She also has reported from Bangladesh on the systematic rape of Rohingya Muslim women by the Myanmar army. Her first primetime CNN special, "ISIS: Behind the Mask," was the result of a year-long investigation of a Belgian altar boy who joined ISIS and later returned home.

Recipient of the Excellence in International Reporting Award from the International Center for Journalists, Ward has won five Emmy Awards, a George Foster Peabody Award, an Alfred I. DuPont Award and an Edward R. Murrow Award for distinguished journalism.

Ward is speaking as part of the Georgie Anne Geyer Initiative, which honors the late trailblazing foreign correspondent and journalist who covered some of the most momentous international events of the past 60 years. Renowned for her in-depth interviews with world leaders including Juan Peron, Anwar Sadat, Yasser Arafat, Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi, Geyer was the author of *Guerilla Prince*, an acclaimed biography of Fidel Castro; the autobiographical *Buying the Night Flight*; and *Predicting the Unthinkable, Anticipating the Impossible*, a compilation of domestic and foreign dispatches.

Tickets for the Geyer Lecture with Clarissa Ward are \$20 and can be purchased at <https://events.dom.edu/clarissa-ward>. For more information, please contact Christina Reilly at creilly@dom.edu.

About Dominican University

Founded in 1901, Dominican University is a comprehensive, coeducational Catholic institution offering bachelor's and master's degrees through the Rosary College of Arts and Sciences, the Borra College of Health Sciences, the Brennan School of Business and the College of Applied Social Sciences. The university also offers a doctoral degree in information studies. In the 2020 issue of America's Best Colleges, U.S. News & World Report ranked Dominican University #11 of all Midwest regional master's level universities. The magazine also ranked Dominican as #1 in the Midwest for ensuring the social mobility of its graduates and the best value in the State of Illinois