

My Lord and Chancellor

Allan Little is an award-winning broadcast journalist. As a BBC foreign correspondent he has reported from some of the most significant events and conflicts of the last 30 years.

Having grown up in Scotland, Allan studied History and Politics at Edinburgh University. He was inspired to follow a career in journalism while watching coverage of a military coup in Poland in his final year, on a black and white television set bought for £25. Allan recalls being hooked by the coverage, broadcast by the only foreign journalist allowed into the country, and longing to experience the events first hand.

His break into journalism came after he attended a Scottish bi-election result with his university classmates, and got into an argument with a BBC producer about their coverage of the event. The producer called him a year later to offer him a three-month internship, which turned into a 33-year BBC career, including reporting stints with Radio Solent and the Today programme.

As a foreign correspondent, Allan fulfilled his early ambitions to share the human stories behind major conflicts. He believes that the role of the journalist is as a conduit for the emotions of others; often sharing insights from the most hostile situations. His news assignments have included reporting on the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia, the trial of Slobodan Milosovic and the Gulf War. As well as covering stories of lives torn apart by conflict, Allan and his colleagues would provide humanitarian support by smuggling letters to loved ones in the linings of their flak jackets. At times, during the war in Bosnia, he recalls taking up to 100 letters out of the country at a time.

Allan has won a host of industry awards for his work, including a Gold Sony Radio Award for Reporter of the Year and an Amnesty International Reporter of the Year Award. His advice to today's media graduates is to believe in the value of what you do and to put personal interests aside in order to let others tell their story.

My Lord and Chancellor, I have the honour to present Allan Little, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.