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## 2021 Spirit of Maine Achievement Award: Ernest Scheyder, 2006

Emily Cain

Ernest Scheyder

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*The College of Our Hearts Always*

2021 Spirit of Maine Achievement Award: Ernest Scheyder '06

June 23, 2021

<https://youtu.be/4iY1r4nBoCU?t=1>

Run Time : 00:05:15

**Transcript is machine generated, unedited, in English.**

The Spirit of Maine Achievement Award winner is Ernest Scheyder '06, a journalist at Reuters. Scheyder's work focuses on transportation and the energy industry. He has also covered national stories, including the the 2020 Presidential campaign, Dakota Access Pipeline, Sandy Hook massacre, and Penn State abuse scandal. He began his career with the Maine Campus and the Bangor Daily News before earning a master's at Columbia Journalism School and working for the Associated Press.

00:00

the university of maine alumni

00:02

association

00:03

spirit of maine achievement award is

00:05

sponsored by

00:06

the university of maine college of

00:08

liberal arts and sciences

00:12

i'm emily kane there are reporters

00:15

there are journalists and there are

00:17

storytellers

00:19

janine pineo remembers the main campus

00:21

and then

00:22  
bangor daily news writer who could be  
00:24  
all three he would come strolling into  
00:26  
the newsroom  
00:27  
and he'd sit down and he just get  
00:30  
started working  
00:31  
he was so eager to learn and  
00:34  
to grow as a journalist  
00:38  
ernie's covered challenging stories the  
00:40  
penn state abuse scandal  
00:42  
sandy hook the 2020 presidential  
00:44  
campaign  
00:45  
plus energy issues in north dakota you  
00:48  
know i didn't know him before i ran for  
00:50  
the senate in 2012  
00:52  
and all of a sudden we started getting  
00:54  
calls from reuters of all places  
00:57  
and it wasn't uh in houston it wasn't uh  
01:00  
you know in exotic places it was in  
01:03  
williston north dakota  
01:05  
so many journalists that i've worked  
01:06  
with they have the headline written  
01:09  
they have the lead written and they just

01:10

want you to confirm it

01:12

that wasn't his his mo i never

01:15

worried about quoting any number in his

01:19

news reports

01:20

because i knew they would be right ernie

01:22

scheider's immersive work

01:23

impresses those he covers and his

01:26

colleagues

01:27

he captures the essence of a story

01:30

beyond

01:30

just the facts and a recent example is

01:33

when he was in arizona reporting on the

01:36

the battle between an indigenous group

01:38

and a mining company and then

01:40

over land rights he will read books

01:44

about the topic that he's going to write

01:45

about and this at a wire surface is

01:47

remarkable because

01:49

we operate at a fast pace and we get

01:51

stories out quickly

01:52

and it's a testament to the kind of

01:54

journalist that he is when he's not

01:56

running down a story ernie

01:58

is often running at the alzheimer's drug

02:01

discovery foundation

02:02

we consider ernie kind of the mayor of

02:05

our marathon team

02:06

ernie became involved with the

02:08

alzheimer's drug discovery foundation

02:10

after he found out his grandfather had

02:12

alzheimer's

02:13

so he decided the way he was going to

02:15

raise money he was going to run

02:16

marathons

02:17

and to date he's raised over 20 thousand

02:20

dollars

02:21

to fund science looking for preventions

02:25

treatments and cures of alzheimer's

02:27

those who know him

02:28

trace his character back to his home

02:30

state

02:31

it's the spirit of maine it's excellence

02:34

the passion

02:36

the optimism the get to it-ness kind

02:39

you're empathetic you're incredibly

02:42

intelligent

02:43

and something that we desperately need

02:46

somebody who

02:47

just is so careful about reporting the

02:50

facts

02:52

ernie scheider a reporter a journalist

02:55

a storyteller and our spirit of maine

02:58

achievement award winner

03:02

i want to thank the university of maine

03:03

alumni association

03:05

and the broader university of maine

03:07

community for this year's spirit of

03:09

maine

03:09

alumni achievement award i wouldn't be

03:12

where i am today without my time at

03:14

orono

03:15

where i learned the value of hard work

03:17

dedication to cause

03:19

purpose and inquiry and it's that last

03:22

bit that's helped me a lot is my time as

03:24

a journalist

03:25  
inquiry i learned the value of the  
03:28  
question why  
03:29  
while i was at orono especially my time  
03:31  
at the main campus where i  
03:32  
really enjoyed getting to report on  
03:36  
all facets of university life i've taken  
03:39  
the skill sets that i've learned there  
03:42  
all across my career to graduate school  
03:45  
to the associated press and now to  
03:47  
reuters  
03:48  
where i've got to cover some of the  
03:50  
biggest news events  
03:52  
in the united states and really the  
03:53  
world in the past 10 to 12 years  
03:56  
all of that links back to my time at  
03:58  
orono where i really  
04:01  
discovered myself and discovered who i  
04:02  
was and discovered the value of being a  
04:05  
black bear  
04:06  
the value of why we say it's the college  
04:08  
of our hearts always  
04:11  
i was a proud english major at umaine

04:13

and at orono and taking classes with

04:16

harvey kale and so many others

04:18

really helped hone my writing really

04:20

enjoyed taking

04:21

a diverse group of classes across the

04:23

college of liberal arts and sciences

04:26

and had immense and really meaningful

04:28

extracurricular activities whether at

04:30

beta theta pi or residents on campus or

04:34

other student organizations across

04:36

campus

04:37

i'm really proud to call myself a black

04:39

bear anywhere i go in the world and when

04:42

i speak to young people in high schools

04:44

i encourage them to consider

04:45

the university of maine as the great

04:47

place for them to go

04:49

for their college education i as i said

04:52

wouldn't be where i am today without my

04:53

time in orono so thank you very much

04:56

to the alumni association i'm a proud

04:58

black bear

04:59

and look forward to even more deeper

05:01

collaboration with the university

05:02

community

05:03

in the years ahead

05:15

you

*The University of Maine in Orono is the flagship campus of the University of Maine System, where efforts toward racial equity are ongoing, as is the commitment to facing a complicated and not always just institutional history. The University recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot nation, where issues of water and its territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations — the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac — through kinship, alliances, and diplomacy. The university also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.*