

# Patricia Callahan

Class of 1989

- **Journalist**
- **Pulitzer Prize Recipient**  
**2000 & 2008**



**T**rish’s skill in writing insightfully and fluently, her ability to see beyond the surface of issues and events, her grace with language and argument -- all underscored that, even in her years at Maine South, she was a young woman with promises to keep. Throughout her career in journalism, Trish has said her “favorite investigations explore where business interests collide with the welfare of children or other vulnerable groups.” As a Henry Luce Scholar, she launched her professional career in Bangkok, reporting about social policy in Southeast Asia and also investigating the trafficking of children in Thailand. The evolving scope of Trish’s investigative topics has ranged from the chemical and tobacco industries deceptive use of toxic and ineffective flame retardants in household products to Chicago’s bungling of the expansion of O’Hare Airport to doctors pedaling dangerous and unfounded treatments for children with autism.

Recognition of Trish’s journalistic accomplishments has been extensive and ongoing. Most notably, to date, Trish has earned not one but two Pulitzer Prizes. In 2000 she received the first for Breaking News Reporting as a lead reporter on *The Denver Post* team covering the Columbine High School shootings. Eight years later her *Chicago Tribune* “Hidden Hazards” series on unsafe children’s products lead to her second Pulitzer--this time for Investigative Reporting. Her writing continues to prove the importance of not merely looking at the world in which we live, but also truly seeing that world and then choosing how we might best live within it.

Both personally and professionally, Patricia Callahan has consistently taken the initiative in recognizing important issues embedded in something as familiar and unthreatening as a crib mattress and bringing that awareness to the public.

*Inducted September 26, 2013*