

Frank A. Bruni Jr.

Doctor of Letters

Frank Bruni '86 began his journalism career at Carolina as a Morehead Scholar, English major and student reporter at The Daily Tar Heel. After earning a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, he worked as a reporter for the New York Post and then the Detroit Free Press, where he covered the first Persian Gulf War and was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist in feature writing.

Bruni is best known for his work for The New York Times, where from 1995 to 2021 he wrote as a columnist, White House correspondent and chief restaurant critic. He now contributes opinion pieces and pens a weekly newsletter for the Times. He is the author of several books, including "Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania" and the 2022 memoir "The Beauty of Dusk," about finding optimism after partially losing his eyesight.

The Tar Heel recently moved back to North Carolina to become the Eugene C. Patterson Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, citing a desire to move to a quieter area, teach and have more time to reflect.

Bruni credits Carolina and faculty members who "were wonderful and engaged teachers and made learning a joy" for providing diverse experiences and preparing him for a career in journalism.