

Grady College Names 2009 Fellowship Inductees

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Five Grady College alumni distinguished for their influence, achievements and service to the media professions will be inducted into The Grady Fellowship in a tribute ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 19, at the Athens Classic Center.

Inductees composing the 2009 Fellows class include Claude Felton, Athens; Brenda Hampton, Los Angeles; Ray Jenkins, Baltimore, Md.; Gordon Smith, New York City; and Ruth Trager, Atlanta.

Grady College Dean E. Culpepper Clark made the announcement on behalf of the Grady Board of Trust, the advisory board of the college, which confers the Grady Fellowship honor.

Claude Felton (ABJ '70, MA '71) has held positions in the University of Georgia's Athletic Association since 1979 including Associate Athletic Director and Sports Communications Director since July, 2004. During his career, he has served as media coordinator for 17 NCAA national championship events and was the host sports information director for the 1977 NCAA Final Four basketball tournament in Atlanta. He served on the press liaison staff for the U.S. Olympic Committee at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles and was the press venue chief for the soccer venue at the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games.

Brenda Hampton (ABJ '73) is the creator and producer of the current ABC family life hit, *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*, and the hit series, *7th Heaven*, the longest running family drama in TV history. One of the few women working in TV drama, Hampton has enjoyed sustained success since moving to Los Angeles in the early 1980's with writer, editor and producer credits in such shows as *Sister Kate*, *Baghdad Caf?*, *Lenny*, *Blossom*, *Daddy's Girls*, *Fat Actress*, and *Mad About You*. Hampton was also the 2003 recipient of Grady College's Henry W. Grady Mid-Career Alumnus Award.

Ray Jenkins (ABJ '51) began his career in journalism in 1951 as a reporter for *The Columbus Ledger*. In 1954, he was one of two reporters who covered the Phenix City, Ala., upheaval coverage which won the 1955 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for *The Ledger*. Between 1959 and 1979, he served as city editor, managing editor, executive editor and vice-president of the *Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser-Journal*. He also served as former editor of *The Baltimore Sun*.

Gordon Smith (ABJ '75, JD '78) is executive director and chief operating officer of the United States Tennis Association (USTA). In this position, Smith leads USTA's effort to promote and develop the growth of tennis, and oversees USTA operations and the functioning of its national office. He has long been connected to tennis as both a player and a volunteer, playing competitively at UGA and captaining a team that swept four straight Southeastern Conference titles from 1971 through 1975. After attending law school at UGA, he clerked with the federal judiciary before joining the Atlanta-based international law firm of King and Spalding, where he was a senior partner in the 800-lawyer firm. Smith is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been listed in the publication *The Best Lawyers in America* for many years.

Ruth Trager (ABJ '47) pioneered the role of women executives in the field of broadcast advertising at WAGA-TV, shaping the parameters of media buying as Atlanta grew to claim its status as a major media market. Trager has held media posts at prominent Atlanta advertising agencies throughout her career and mentored young women entering advertising through media buying, planning and sales.

"The Grady Fellowship was created in 2008 to recognize individuals whose lives and careers lend measurably to the reputation Grady College enjoys," noted Clark, Grady College dean. "Claude, Brenda, Ray, Gordon and Ruth inspire students and alumni. We are pleased and honored to receive them into this year's class and to welcome all members of the Grady Fellowship home."

The tribute evening will get underway with a 6 p.m. reception, followed by dinner at 7. Inductions will take place at 7:45 p.m. by Dean Clark and Swann Seiler (ABJ '78) first female president of Grady's Board of Trust. At 8 p.m., Grady's sports journalism legacy will be spotlighted with a panel discussion by distinguished sports journalists, most of whom are Grady alumni.

Tickets for the tribute evening are available for \$75. Purchase tickets and RSVP by Friday, Nov. 6, at www.grady.uga.edu/tribute