The Grady College community gathered for a special day of celebration and inspiration on Nov. 15 to honor the 2012 Grady Fellowship inductees. The festivities began with the All Fellows Day Symposium, where four writers and Grady alumni, Chris Dixon, Glen Finland, Mark Schlabach, and Steve Sears, spoke on the art of storytelling in the professional world. Students, faculty and professionals discussed the heart of journalism, with each panelist offering a unique perspective of the industry.

Dixon (ABJ '89, MA '92), the founding online editor of Surfer magazine and author of Ghost Wave: The Story of the Cortes Bank and the Biggest Wave on Earth, served as proof to students that writers can make a living out of their passions.

Finland (ABJ '74), a freelance writer and author of Next Stop, addressed the difficulty she experience when writing her book to find the hook that would resonate with multiple audiences, acknowledging this is a common obstacle for authors.

Schlabach (ABJ '96), the lead college football reporter for ESPN.com and accomplished sports biographical author, shared his struggles of finding the end to his stories. After spending so much time with the subjects he writes about, he admitted it is difficult to determine which details and subplots to include in the main story.

The final panelist, Sears (ABJ '90), recently authored The Indomitable Investor: Why a Few Succeed in the Stock Market When Everyone Else Fails and is senior editor and columnist for Barron's and Barrons.com. Sears shared his experience from the business world perspective and how he applies himself completely to his beats.

The open dialogue between current students and professionals that ensued illustrated the inquisitive nature of the Grady community. Panelists and students gained invaluable insight into each other as they discussed the new expectations of journalism.

That evening, the College honored: Finland, Henry Grady III, Jeff Jowdy, Tim Mapes, Greg McGarity and Horace Newcomb. Each received a Grady Fellows Medal at the ceremony.

Grady Dean E. Culpepper Clark opened the evening, while Chris Dixon spoke of the journey he undertook to write The Ghost Wave. Afterward, Clark visited each table and reminisced about shared memories and the Fellows' accomplishments.

Grady (BBA '84) is the managing director of healthcare investments for SunTrust Robinson Humphrey and a fifth-generation grandson the college’s namesake, Henry Grady. Despite not being a student in the Grady College, Grady shared that there had always been a special place in his heart for UGA’s school of journalism.
Jowdy (ABJ ’83) is founder and president of Lighthouse Counsel, holding more than 25 years of distinguished leadership experience for nonprofits. As a service to Grady, Jowdy has given his time and expertise to further the promotion of the College.

Mapes (ABJ ’86) serves as the senior vice president of marketing for Delta, helping create the airline's global brand strategy.

McGarity (ABJ ’76), the director of athletics at the University of Georgia, has seen 14 different Georgia teams ranked in the nation’s top 20 under his leadership. As a native to Athens, McGarity has long been a supporter of the University.

Newcomb, the Director of the Peabody Awards and an expert on television history and culture, has authored some of the most defining histories and commentaries in the area. Clark thanked Newcomb for all his work with the Peabody Awards.

For a photo gallery of all of the events on All Fellows Day, click here.

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