2013 Grady Fellowship class inducted at Grady Tribute Night

Alumni, faculty, staff and other friends of the Grady College gathered Thursday night to celebrate the induction of the newest class of Grady Fellows at the 2013 Grady Tribute Night.

Cathy Cox (ABJ '80), Ron Lane (ABJ ’63, MA ’65), Melissa Libby (ABJ ’85), Steve Oney (ABJ ’79), Jennifer Sloan (ABJ ’86) and Glenn Vaughn (M ’53) were recognized for their influence, achievements and service to the media professions and were inducted into the 2013 Grady Fellowship. Worth McDougald was inducted into the Sanford Circle, a posthumous honor.

"What a night," commented Grady College Dean Charles Davis. "I am overwhelmed by the sense of family and kinship on display, and energized by the great unbroken circle of Grady College. To be in that room tonight was a vivid reminder of what has come before us and what lies ahead."

The Tribute Night, held at UGA's Hotel and Conference Center, kicked off at 6 p.m. with a cocktail mixer, followed by a dinner program and the induction ceremony.

"It's a thrill to be back," said Cox, former Georgia secretary of state and current president of Young Harris College. "Grady provides a great education and a great foundation for doing so much later in life."

Atlanta Image Arts produced the video highlighting some of Grady's greatest features, from its students and faculty to its rich history, which began the night's program. The video can be viewed on the Grady website at: http://grady.uga.edu/about.

After dinner, the 2013 Grady Fellows were inducted and received a Henry W. Grady medal, symbolizing their tie to the spirit of Grady College.

"I'm truly honored to be associated with such a distinguished group of people," Vaughn said, as he received his medal.

McDougald's posthumous award was accepted by several members of his family.

"I know he would have enjoyed being inducted and honored here tonight, but not as much as he would have enjoyed being here with all of you," his son Bill McDougald said.

Several big announcements have been made throughout the years at the Tribute Night, and the 2013 Tribute was no exception. The Coach Dan Magill Professorship in Sports Communication fund was the surprise announcement of the evening, introduced by current UGA Men's Tennis Coach Manuel Diaz. The professorship was named in honor of UGA's legendary tennis coach and sports information director, who is a 1942 Grady College
graduate. The faculty endowment will raise money dedicated to teaching, research and service in sports communication.

The celebration also featured the release of the Grady College app, believed to be the first of its kind among communication schools throughout the nation. The GoGrady app seamlessly connects Grady’s many audiences on several platforms, including mobile phones, electronic tablets and home computers.

"It’s amazing what Grady does," Sloan said. "I haven’t seen some of the people in this room in years, but when we’re together, it’s an instant reunion. Grady brings people together."

The 2013 Tribute Night wrapped up by honoring all members of the Grady Fellowship, both past and present.

Pictures of the event can be viewed by visiting the Grady College flickr page: http://www.flickr.com/photos/ugagrady/sets/72157637949351594/