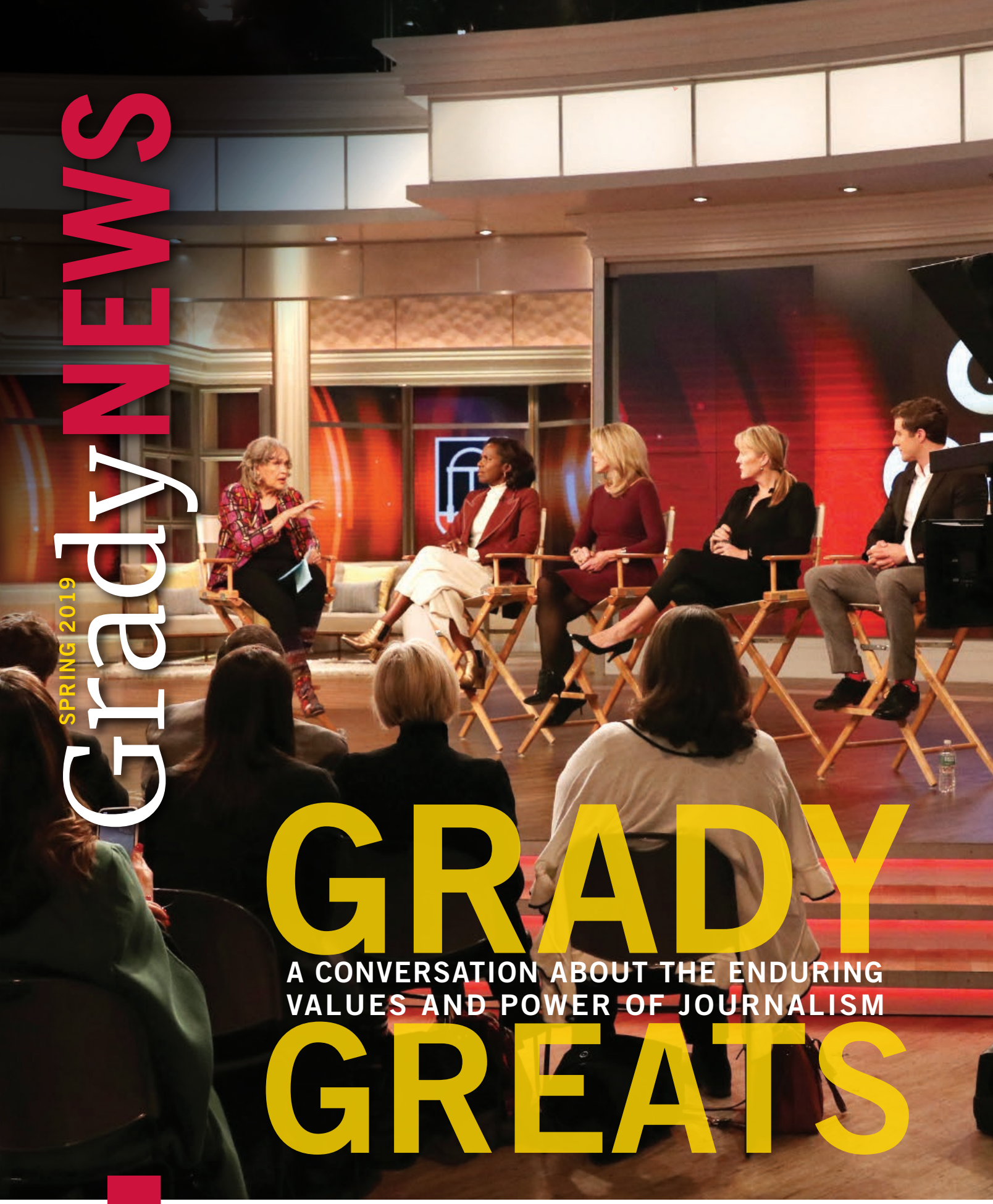
Grady NEWS
SPRING 2019



GRADY GREATS

A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ENDURING VALUES AND POWER OF JOURNALISM

PLUS

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS | VIRTUAL REALITY LAB | #GRADYGRIT | ALUMNI AWARDS

FROM THE DESK OF CHARLES N. DAVIS

Long before students arrive at Grady College, decisions must be made. Majors, sequences, emphasis areas…college is filled with them, and to the uninitiated, they can seem quite daunting.

Since we are deemed a high-demand college by the university, students at UGA apply for admission to Grady College. We control the admissions process to manage enrollment levels, so each year there are 2,000 or so students who identify as "pre-Grady."

We've long struggled to reach pre-Grady students, and we've always wanted to get them better enculturated into the life of the college, so last year, Parker Middleton, our executive senior director of strategy and engagement and I began a new course for them. Career Explorations at Grady is a one-credit, eight-week introduction to all things Grady, from our majors to our experiential learning opportunities and beyond.

We've taught it three times now, and the class has grown to 120 students, all pre-Grady students. The course continues to evolve, and to grow, but the formula remains straightforward: to use our students, faculty, staff and alumni to explain how Grady works and what career pathways students can travel.

Along the way, we spend time talking about what Parker rightly describes as "super skills" – networking, follow-through, punctuality and how to work a room at an event. One assignment walks students through setting up a professional presence on LinkedIn; another requires that they attend a Grady event and reflect upon it.

> Presenting a compelling vision, a collegial and engaged faculty and a staff committed to serving students helps immensely.

During our two one-hour class sessions weekly, students hear from alumni, ranging from veteran communications professionals to, most recently, a trio of 2017 graduates in their first jobs. Since we launched the class last year, dozens of Grady alumni have taught, enlivening the class that we now refer to in the hallways as "The Real World."

Students also hear from all the academic departments and organizations in the college like Grady Newsource and Talking Dog, as well as extracurricular programs like The Red & Black. They are encouraged to get involved in these programs now, rather than to wait until they are admitted. We encourage them to start looking for internships, work with them on résumés, counsel them on career choices and most importantly, welcome them to learning at Grady College.

We hope all of you can make it by sometime to visit Career Explorations. It's an absolute joy to teach. You'll no doubt leave with renewed confidence in the future. We're in good hands.

—Charles N. Davis, Dean (MA '92)

GRADY

gratitude

Kevin Maggiore helps future students fly high

Kevin Maggiore (ABJ '79) grew up in a family that is as comfortable in the air as on the ground. Maggiore's father was a Navy fighter pilot in World War II and the Korean War.

"He took me to my first air show when I was three years old and took me in the air when I was five," Maggiore said. "I got my first camera at age 10 to photograph the Blue Angels. The only thing I wanted to do was be a fighter pilot like my dad."

Maggiore pursued an undergraduate degree in radio, TV and film, though he never intended to actually enter the communications field. He simply wanted an undergraduate degree required to enroll in flight school. But, he was unable to go to flight school when the Navy cut back training fighter pilots after the Vietnam War.

Since he could not pursue his love of flying, Maggiore changed course and pursued his other love: photography.

Beginning in 1980, Maggiore worked in every facet of the photography and broadcasting business.

"One of my professors at Grady told us: 'if you don't know how to do more than one job in this business, you will not survive it,'" Maggiore said. "I've had to reinvent myself multiple times in my 42-year career."

That career spans from local television and national syndication work, on shows including "PM Magazine" in Georgia, Kentucky, New Mexico and Pennsylvania.

Maggiore returned to his home state and began working with WSB-TV as a photographer, editor and producer. He earned a full-time role in the same capacity with WAGA-TV, covering several historic events.

He joined The Home Depot's corporate team as a producer and director in June 1996. He loved his work and envisioned being with the company long-term. But in 2002, Maggiore and his department were informed the company was being realigned.

Maggiore founded Major Productions on April 1, 2003. For 16 years, he has produced corporate and commercial programming for a variety of outlets including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Fox Sports, CBS Sports and High Noon Entertainment, the production company responsible for many programs on HGTV and Food Network. He has also been involved in multiple documentaries. Most recently, he was the videographer behind "The Golden Isles at War."

Along his journey, Maggiore found his way back to the skies and earned his commercial instrument multi-engine pilot's license and would use it to fly to video and photography shoots.

The endurance and agility required for his career was first developed at UGA.

"My career started when I bought my first Canon AE-1 35-millimeter camera and began taking photographs for the Red & Black," Maggiore said. "Those are my fondest memories at UGA."

Maggiore is helping future students have similar experiences by giving a planned gift to Grady College of $250,000 in the form of a perpetually endowed scholarship. The Kevin Maggiore Scholarship Fund will be available to juniors and seniors studying entertainment and media studies.

"I wanted to provide a gift that keeps on giving," Maggiore said. "I am lucky to have spent my entire career in journalism. I hope this can help others have a head start in this business and hopefully do the same."

Like his father who instilled a love of flying in him, Kevin Maggiore wants to not only inspire future students with the marvels of his career, but also enable them to pursue their own adventures in the next wave of visual storytelling.

Visit the Grady Gratitude webpage at ***Grady.uga.edu*** *for more profiles.*

PEABODY

Peabody Welcomes New Board of Directors

Peabody welcomed five new members to its West Coast board of directors in March. The entertainment and media executives join an already impressive group of people who provide guidance on the program's efforts to build upon its mission to celebrate stories that matter. New members include:

SUSANNE DANIELS, global head of original content for YouTube, has developed and produced some of the most iconic and groundbreaking series in entertainment, including "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Dawson's Creek," "Gilmore Girls," "Army Wives," "Charmed," "7th Heaven," "Smallville," "Project Runway," "Martin," "Living Single," and most recently "Are You The One" and "Scream."

PETER ROTH, president and chief content officer of Warner Bros. Television Group, is creative head for the company's worldwide TV production. In this capacity, Roth serves as president of Warner Bros. Television, one of the entertainment industry's most respected providers of original content, producing award-winning drama and comedy series for broadcast network TV, cable and on-demand/subscription platforms.

JENNIFER SALKE, head of Amazon Studios Inc., oversees of all aspects of TV and film development as well as production for Amazon's entertainment division. After joining the Amazon team, the studio signed the ReFRame agreement, which supports a formal action plan to further gender parity in the media industry.

MICHAEL SCHWIMMER, President and CEO, Fuse Media. Fuse Media is an independently-owned media company serving the Latino and multicultural youth audience. Schwimmer is spearheading the transformation of Fuse into a multiplatform media brand.

PAUL TELEGDY, co-chairman of NBC Entertainment, is jointly responsible for overseeing all aspects of primetime, late-night and scripted daytime programming for the network, including business affairs, marketing, communications, scheduling, West Coast research and digital operations, as well as first-run syndication.

The new members will join fellow industry professionals led by Bruce M. Ramer, partner with Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown, who chairs the board.

Plans are also underway to establish an East Coast version of the board of directors comprised of respected leaders in journalism, public media, documentary, technology and philanthropy. John Huey (AB '70), former Peabody Board of Juror and retired editor-in-chief of Time Inc., is chairing the effort.

For the latest news from Peabody, please visit peabodyawards.com or sign up for the newsletter at ***https://bit.ly/2H21rfl****.*

DEMYSTIFYING GRADY

Pre-Grady "real world" class

It is the first day of Thursday classes on a cool January afternoon at the heart of the University of Georgia's campus. Students are filling stadium-style seats on the second floor of a Miller Learning Center classroom. One co-instructor is troubleshooting inevitable first-day-of-class technology issues as late arrivals scan the room for an available seat, which will be their accustomed space on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the following eight weeks.

Chatter is scarce. Nothing is familiar. That is the very reason this particular one-hour course exists.

A friendly greeting breaks the silence.

"Hello and welcome," says Dean Charles Davis.

The same inviting pleasantry used in conversation with communications icons like Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Ernie Johnson Jr., Carolyn Tieger, Dick Yarbrough and thousands of members of Grady College's legacy now addresses a group of pre-Grady students embarking on a journey to become communications leaders. This is their first look at their future home.

Davis co-teaches the course with Parker Middleton, Grady College's executive senior director of strategy and engagement. Between them, they have more than 50 years of experience in journalism and academia.

"The name of the class is career explorations, but we like to call it the real world," Davis continues with his opening remarks to the students. "It is the real world of Grady College."

This is the students' first interaction with two of the chief administrators who will be helping them become the next generation of dynamic storytellers.

"Connecting with students at this stage is so important," Middleton said. "We want them to feel a part of Grady and eagerly jump in."

"Everybody remembers the fear of not knowing where to go or even who to ask," Davis said. "We have demystified the place."

Enrollment for the course has grown every semester and is up to 120 in spring 2019. It has also been a catalyst for increased volunteer involvement at Grady.

"The earlier we can give people these opportunities, the earlier they will develop," Middleton said. "They show leadership, join clubs, volunteer at Newsource, write for the Red & Black and more."

For two months, students learn about the operations behind one of America's most prestigious journalism and mass communication programs and meet passionate alumni eager to offer their time and expertise.

"Companies come to us and say they want to get close to this demographic," Middleton said. "They want to know Gen Z, they want to know Gen Y and millennials. This is a way to be really close to them and hear what they are thinking. The learning goes both ways."

In a field that foreshadows through teases, ledes, hooks and headlines, Davis smiles and expresses a weighty statement intended to energize the students on the semester ahead, years upcoming and career awaiting.

"I think this is one of the most fun classes that I have ever been involved in," Davis said.

GRADY FACULTY *achievement*

Yan Jin named UGA Athletic Association Professor

Yan Jin, assistant department head of the Department of Advertising and Public Relations, has been named UGA Athletic Association Professor. The professorship supports the academic mission of the university and recognizes Jin for her contributions to the field.

Jin has been teaching, researching and writing about public relations since 2002, and her research interests include crisis communication, social media and strategic health risk communication. Jin is the associate director for the Center for Health & Risk Communication at UGA. She has co-edited a book about social media and crisis communication and has had more than 75 scholarly journal articles published. Jin received the 2014 Krieghbaum Under-40 Award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication for her outstanding achievement in research, teaching and public service. In 2016, Jin was elected to the Arthur W. Page Society based on her teaching and research distinction in corporate communications.

Jin earned her bachelor's degree in advertising from Peking University in Beijing, China. She earned her master's and doctorate degrees in journalism from the University of Missouri. Jin began her academic career at Virginia Commonwealth University prior to joining the UGA faculty in 2014.

Keith Herndon named Morris Chair

Keith Herndon (ABJ '82), a professor of practice in journalism, has been named to the William S. Morris Chair in News Strategy and Management by the dean of Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Herndon is the third professor to hold the Morris Chair, first held by the late Conrad Fink. Along with being a journalism professor, Herndon is the director of the Cox Institute for Journalism Innovation, Management and Leadership.

Prior to teaching at Grady College, Herndon was a media research consultant with Internet Decisions, LLC, a firm he began in 2005. He also worked with Cox Media, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Indianapolis Star and the Athens Banner-Herald, among other outlets in journalism, technology and management.

Dodie Cantrell-Bickley receives multiple industry honors

Grady College journalism lecturer Dodie Cantrell-Bickley (MFA '17) received multiple broadcast awards in recent months. She was inducted to the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in January. She also joined the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Silver Circle southeast chapter in October 2018.

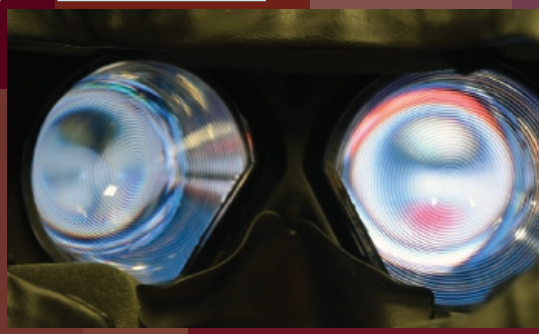
Cantrell-Bickley currently co-produces "Grady Newsource." She has more than 30 years of experience in broadcast journalism, working in a variety of roles.

Her career began at WMAZ-TV in Macon, Georgia, where she was a reporter and executive producer for five years. She won multiple AP and Emmy awards and launched the station's consumer journalism franchise.

Cantrell-Bickley was named WMAZ's Vice President and News Director in 1992, a role she held for 13 years. She continued her ascent in broadcasting management, becoming the President and General Manager at WMAZ, and later at WTLV/WJXX in Jacksonville, Florida.

Virtual and augmented reality lab opens

VERGE



Students at Grady College can now have hands-on experience with virtual and augmented reality.

Grady College has opened the Virtual Environment Room and Gaming Experience lab to allow students and faculty members to engage in the VR world.

"VERGE allows students to experience a state-of-the-art lab and be able to better discuss what audiences and target markets are experiencing," said Grace Ahn, advertising associate professor and VERGE co-director.

The lab features 15 immersive stations which allow up to 20 students to experience virtual reality at the same time. Some stations are capable of full body tracking. Others simply require wearing goggles.

"Video games are starting to merge with other forms of storytelling, giving the audiences more opportunities to interact differently with the narratives we encounter," said Shira Chess, entertainment and media studies assistant professor and VERGE co-director.

One popular station is Beat Saber, an immersive music game in which players slash boxes representing musical beats with light sabers. Other stations include virtual reality experiences in fishing and golf, among others.

"It is a nascent form and it is up to younger generations to redefine what storytelling might look like within this format."

Grady College professors expect upcoming VR advancements to include more mobile and wireless hardware systems.

"Businesses are already training employees through virtual reality," Ahn said. "We must open students' eyes to see how they can relay messages and tell stories through the medium."

Another advancement is the development of social VR, where users create avatars and interact with others from around the world.

"The exciting thing about VR and the VERGE lab is that we really don't know where it is going, entirely," said Chess. "It is a nascent form and it is up to younger generations to redefine what storytelling might look like within this format."

The VERGE lab will be used for undergraduate and graduate student research. The lab was funded by the university's student technology fund. It is located at Grady College room 504 and will be primarily available to classes.

PANEL SHINES LIGHT ON POWER OF JOURNALISM

Journalism skills and diversity were featured in a panel of Grady College alumni on Jan. 22, 2019.

The panel, "Grady Greats: A conversation on the enduring values and power of journalism," was moderated by author and journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault (ABJ '63). Panelists included Deborah Roberts (ABJ '82), ABC news correspondent; Deborah Norville (ABJ '79), host of "Inside Edition;" Lisa Ryan Howard (ABJ '92), senior vice president and general manager of media at The New York Times; and Will Carr (ABJ '06), L.A-based correspondent with ABC News.

Robin Hommel (ABJ '96), senior broadcast producer of "The View," helped coordinate the panel as the executive producer of Grady Greats, with Parker Middleton, Dodie Cantrell-Bickley and the students of DiGamma Kappa serving as associate producers. The panelists addressed an audience of Grady College students, alumni and friends in the ABC studios where "The View" is broadcast.

To view the entire Grady Greats broadcast, visit YouTube.com/user/UGAGradyCollege.

GRADY GREATS

1 Roberts (center) opened the panel with a word of thanks to Charlayne Hunter-Gault (left) for opening the doors as the first African-American female to take classes at the University of Georgia and then by paving the way for more diversity in the journalism industry. "I am a journalist because I am standing on your shoulders," Roberts told Hunter-Gault. Deborah Norville (right) talked about needing to have an unlimited capacity for hard work and being insanely curious to make it in journalism.

2 Hunter-Gault is interviewed by DGK student and journalism major Maddie Ray during the Facebook Live broadcast prior to the panel. During the panel, Hunter-Gault encouraged student journalists not to give in to a simple "no" when reporting.

3 Lisa Ryan Howard spoke about how The New York Times is addressing diversity initiatives. Will Carr cautioned that with allegations of fake news, journalists must stay alert to diversions from the real news. "It's really important to think about why these stories are developing, why people are saying certain things and what else is rippling beneath the surface at the same time."

4 Celebrating Grady Greats after the panel were Parker Middleton, Dodie Cantrell-Bickley, Robin Hommel, Lisa Ryan Howard, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Deborah Roberts, Will Carr and Charles Davis.

#GRADY GRIT

Grady Grit is a new series of features about Grady College students who show determination, leadership and involvement outside the classroom. Students are nominated by faculty and staff and profiled by our Yarbrough-Grady Fellows. The following is a sample of the Grady students profiled in the #GradyGrit series.

ADVERTISING

Jayda Hill Founder and president of Women in Media, CURO participant, Her Campus membership chair

"I give credit to Grady for giving me my first big-time leadership role on campus."

Akyra Kelley Co-Director for 2018 AdPR Connection, member of Grady x PHD team, participant in research study for the Communications Studies Department

"Participating in research here, one of the best research institutions, has given me personal fulfillment."

ENTERTAINMENT AND MEDIA STUDIES

Trey Leonard Co-founder of The Industry, a writers' workroom and filmmaking group at Grady, UGAgency, Grady Study Abroad in China

"Grady has far exceeded my expectations for what a college is supposed to provide its students."

Tony Phan Grady Ambassadors, founder of Phantastic Media Project, videographer for the Office of Dean of Students

"Grady has given me an environment that allows me to grow as a person, to be my truest self and to let my creativity run wild without anyone saying anything about it."

JOURNALISM

Tyler Head Grady Sports Media, UGA Wesley Foundation, WUOG member

"I've met and gotten to know so many people from so many walks of life and professions, and I really value that."

Myan Patel The Red & Black, WUOG, Grady Ambassadors, Grady Sports

"Grady Sports, like Grady College, has such a familial feel, and it makes this huge place of 30,000+ feel small and like home."

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Lottie Smalley Director of Communications for the Student Government Association, member of Women in Media, member of DiGamma Kappa Broadcast Society

"Grady is such a supportive community of creatives who understand the value of collaboration and don't equate that to competition."

Maria Stagliano Co-director for 2018 AdPR Connection, Social & Digital Media Fellow for the Public Affairs Communications Program, Crisis Communication Think Tank Intern

"Grady has been so much more than a major for me; it is my family."

For more #GradyGrit profiles, please **visit grady.uga.edu/grady-grit.**

2019 Alumni Awards

GRADY COLLEGE IS HONORED TO RECOGNIZE THESE ALUMNI FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

*Named after the late John Holliman Jr., Grady alumnus and former CNN reporter, the **Lifetime Achievement Award** honors sustained contributions to the profession throughout a career.*

*The **Henry W. Grady Award** honors a mid-career graduate who has been influential in his or her field.*

*The **Dean John E. Drewry Award** recognizes a graduate of the last decade who has experienced a successful early career.*

*The **Distinguished Scholar Award** honors an alumnus/a for excellence and sustained contributions to scholarship in journalism and mass communication education.*

Chris Holcomb (ABJ '85) will receive the John Holliman Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award. Holcomb has been nominated and awarded multiple Emmys for his work as chief meteorologist at 11Alive WXIA/WATL, the NBC affiliate in Atlanta, where he has worked for 27 years. As the recipient of the Holliman Lifetime Achievement Award, Holcomb also will be inducted into the Grady Fellowship on April 26.

Henry "Hadjii" Hand (ABJ '98) will receive the Henry W. Grady Mid-Career Alumni Award. Hand is an acclaimed writer and producer with a voice for comedy. His first feature, "Somebodies," premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and received a Golden Thumb Award from film critic Roger Ebert. Hand serves as an instructor in the UGA's Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts Program in Narrative Media Writing.

Angela Alfano (ABJ '10) will receive the John E. Drewry Young Alumni Award. Alfano is director of corporate communications for Major League Soccer, playing an important role in sponsorship, business ventures and digital media, among other responsibilities. Before MLS, she worked in public relations at Tough Mudder in New York City, at the National Football League headquarters and in corporate communications for the Washington Redskins.

James "Ford" Risley (MA '92) will receive the Distinguished Alumni Scholar Award. Risley is a professor of communications and associate dean for undergraduate and graduate education in the Bellisario College of Communications at Penn State University. He is the author or editor of four books, including editor of American Journalism, the scholarly journal of the American Journalism Historians Association.

SANFORD CIRCLE HONOREE:

Tom Crawford

Journalist Tom Crawford (1950–2018) will be inducted into the Sanford Circle, a posthumous honor, at the 2019 Grady Salutes event.

Tom Crawford (ABJ '72) was the voice of Georgia politics, serving as the founder and editor of "The Georgia Report" (known early on as "Capitol Impact") for more than 18 years. He wrote a weekly newspaper column that was published in nearly 30 Georgia newspapers. He was also an early adopter of web-based journalism. Crawford, a former editor of The Red & Black, studied journalism at Grady College and went on to write for the Marietta Daily Journal, the Montgomery Advertiser and The Atlanta Journal.

GRADY COLLEGE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE

2019 Fellowship Class

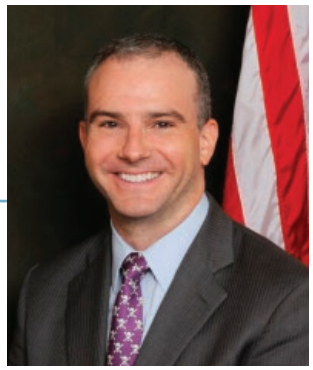
Established in 2008, the Grady College Fellowship honors friends of the college whose accomplishments, friendship and service to the industries they serve have made a positive impact on Grady College. The following individuals will be inducted into the Grady Fellowship on April 26, 2019:

Connie Ledoux Book

(Ph.D. '93)
Ledoux Book returned to Elon University in 2018 to be inaugurated the university's ninth president. Prior to that, she served as the first female provost and chief academic officer at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina.

Richard Griffiths

Before he retired in March 2017, Griffiths spent twenty years as CNN's editorial oversight, most recently as vice president and senior editorial director. He currently serves as president of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation, focusing on government access and free speech issues.



Brian Robinson

(ABJ '97)
Robinson owns Robinson Republic, a communications consulting firm specializing in public affairs messaging throughout Georgia. Previously, Robinson worked as a deputy chief of staff for communications during Gov. Nathan Deal's campaigns in 2010 and 2014.

Carole Munroe (ABJ '82)

Munroe is a senior director of brand communications for portfolio, loyalty and content for Hilton Worldwide. Previously, she served as director of public relations and content relations for Disney Parks.

As the recipient of the John Holliman Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award, Chris Holcomb will also be inducted into the Grady Fellowship.

Dean Krugman

Krugman is professor emeritus in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations at Grady College. While at Grady College, he served as a department head and senior associate dean and director of graduate studies.

GRADY SALUTES

A Celebration of Achievement, Commitment and Leadership

Honoring the 2019 Alumni Award recipients and the Grady Fellowship and Sanford Circle inductees.

Friday, April 26, 2019 • 6 p.m.
Athens Cotton Press • 149 Oneta Street, Athens

Tickets and sponsorships available at Grady.uga.edu/alumni/grady-salutes.

EMST students win major creative awards

It's always gratifying to see students do well in national and statewide competitions, and this spring is no exception. Several Entertainment and Media Studies students were recognized with awards for scripts for original television-series episode, a web series and an original movie feature, as well as production of a short film.

The Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts is a national competition that received more than 1,500 entries for its awards, and the Student Film Festival is a statewide competition sponsored by the Georgia Communication Association.

BEA Festival of Media Arts 2019

FIRST PLACE, ORIGINAL TELEVISION SERIES PILOT

Lucia Vereen for "Chesterfield," episode 8, "Can't Go Home Now"

"Chesterfield" is a serial historical fantasy set in 1685 colonial Rhode Island.

"This script is the longest one I've written to date, and it is my first official foray into television," Vereen said. "Creating an entire world and characters from scratch and then translating those elements into a screenplay was an exhilarating experience that made me realize I want to pursue screenwriting professionally."

Vereen developed this script as a part of EMST 3110, Writing for Digital Media, taught by Nandita Sridhar, a Ph.D. candidate at Grady College. Vereen would like to continue writing stories of underrepresented groups after college.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE, FEATURE

Micheal Raines for "Noche De Los Muertos"

"Noche De Los Muertos" (Night of the Dead) is a story about a group of supernatural hunters-for-hire who enter a game of cat-and-mouse with an unstoppable vampire on the night of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Raines wrote his 110-page screenplay for the EMST 4110 Screenwriting course taught by Booker T. Mattison.

"I'm proud of Micheal because he didn't just write "Noche De Los Muertos"… he worked it at every step of the process," Mattison said. "Micheal's accomplishment demonstrates a mantra that I repeat in class ad-nauseam: the work of writing trumps inspiration every time."

THIRD PLACE, MOBISODE/WEBISODE

Lorenzo Cooper, Joel Myers and Kai Yost, "Gordo"

"Gordo" is a six-episode webseries following five friends as they travel to spread the ashes of their dead dog, Gordo.

The script was written for EMST 3110, Writing for Digital Media, taught by Shira Chess.

"I was constantly impressed with the trio's desire to tap into a sense of magical realism in order to push at realistic and personal themes that spoke more largely to the human condition," Chess said. "They gracefully tread the line on a story about the known and unknown in some wonderfully weird ways via believable characters in a surreal situation."

2019 Student Film Festival, Georgia Communication Association

SECOND PLACE

Cast and crew of "For Elizabeth"
Director: Kira Rakshit; writer(s): Kira Rakshit and Caleb Moss

"For Elizabeth" is about a dysfunctional young married couple who attempts to murder each other at the same time. When things go south, the two are forced to work together and find mutual admiration for each other.

Lead-editor on the project, Cyrus Townsend, explained that "For Elizabeth" brought together thirty UGA students and five cast members from Atlanta.

"Crew members spent most of their time outside of school working on this project and cast members made long drives to the set with lengthy shoot days," Townsend said. "Everyone put their best foot forward to create something that serves as a testimony of their dedication towards the film."

Clockwise: Lucia Vereen; Micheal Raines; Select cast and crew of "For Elizabeth" on set. Holding the clapperboard in the back row, center is director and co-writer Kira Rakshit; Left to right: Kai Yost, Lorenzo Cooper and Joel Myers.

MFA in Narrative Media Writing

By Lori Johnston (BA '95, MFA '17)

I waited for the Grady College's Master of Fine Arts in Narrative Media Writing program, and it was worth it.

I was enjoying a successful journalism career covering crime, celebrities, politics, business, and home design and architecture. I published freelance stories with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, HGTV.com, American City Business Journals, Wall Street Journal and many others, following full-time work as a reporter for The Associated Press and an editor for magazines and websites.

As I approached my career midpoint, about 20 years after I earned my bachelor's degree from Grady in 1995, I desired to move to the next level in my writing and deepen my ability to tell true stories. As with other times in my life, Grady played a key role in my career goals.

When I heard that Grady was launching an MFA program that was the first of its kind in a journalism college and directed by Valerie Boyd, associate professor and Charlayne Hunter-Gault Distinguished Writer in Residence, I decided almost immediately that I would be part of the first cohort, the class of 2017.

The program appealed to me for its low-residency format. I didn't have to shut down or take a break from my freelance writing. Each semester, I was paired with one of the faculty mentors, who are accomplished writers. They embraced the experience I bought to the program. They challenged me by providing rigorous feedback throughout the semester. I relished the monthly one-on-one discussions with my mentor and monthly meetings, sometimes virtually, sometimes in person, with peers to discuss books and our writing projects.

The two-year program was a huge investment in my future. It required me to carve out time – early mornings, nights and weekends – for reading, researching, reporting and writing. At the start of every semester, I immersed myself in the MFA residency in Athens – an invigorating, yet intense week of on-campus lectures, seminars, panel discussions and readings by faculty mentors and visiting writers, agents and editors. Our days and nights were filled with intimate and sometimes relentless discussions about the craft of writing with published authors and classmates, who ranged from their 20s to 60s.

The professional and personal relationships I formed exceeded my expectations. My peers from across the country challenged my thinking and gave me confidence to find my voice as a writer.

The MFA program gave me a way to "steal time," as faculty mentor John T. Edge told us, from our busy lives. For me, that was the life of mother, wife, journalist, entrepreneur, mentor and friend. I finished with three long-form narrative stories and a burgeoning book proposal, all focused on the intersection of faith, race and culture. Since earning my degree, my pieces on faith have been published in The Washington Post.

The program broadened my writing abilities, honed my leadership skills and gave me the academic qualifications, with a terminal degree, to pursue teaching full time on the collegiate level.

Recently, I joined fellow MFA graduates to read our work during a night of factual, creative storytelling in Athens. When I looked around the room, I saw the same array of ages, including several Grady undergraduate students. One of them told me the next day, "It was like art."

Hearing that was worth the wait.

Johnston is a part-time journalism instructor at Grady College and co-owner of Fast Copy News Service.

More information about the MFA Narrative Media Writing Program can be found by visiting mfa.uga.edu.

Applications for the next narrative nonfiction and screenwriting MFA classes are due May 1, 2019 (special alumni extension).

Lori Johnston (second from left) joins other MFA graduates Max Blau (MFA '18), KaToya Fleming (MFA '18) and Mark Shavin (ABJ '79, MFA '18) in a panel discussion about preparing for the last semester of the Narrative Nonfiction program.

Hadjii Hand (seated on left in hat), an instructor in the screenwriting program, discusses a scene with current student Wendy Eley Jackson.

Trusting News project expands research and training through Grady College partnership

Trusting News, a project intended to empower journalists to earn consumers' trust, is adding research and training support from a partnership with Grady College.

The Trusting News project, which was founded at the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, has worked with more than 50 news outlets since 2016 to find out what news consumers trust and to test strategies intended to build trust.

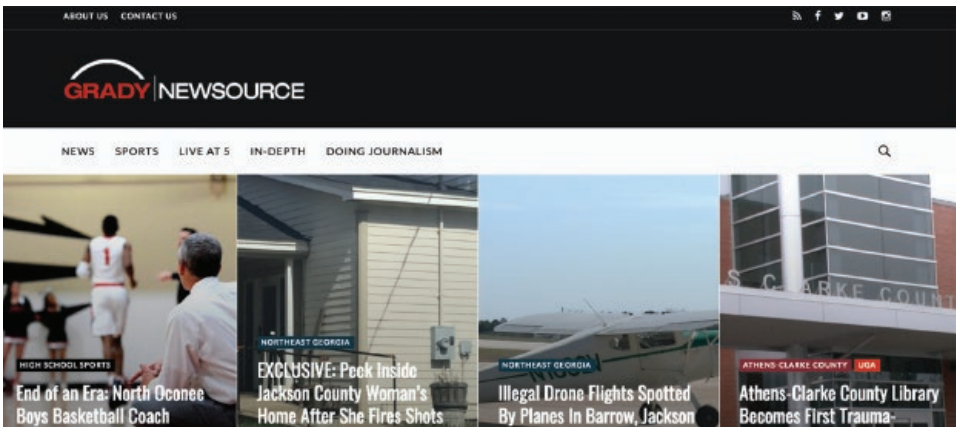
"Trust is the single most important issue facing journalism today – we must work in concert to help our colleagues in the industry or risk losing our institution entirely to the forces of disinformation and cynical manipulation of the news," said Dean Charles Davis.

Faculty members will recruit newsrooms in the Southeast to participate and train them on how to implement Trusting News strategies, said Davis. The college will also provide researchers and resources with the goal of producing at least one research study a year.

"I'm thrilled that our journalism faculty will be part of Trusting News," added Janice Hume, the Carolyn McKenzie and Don E. Carter Chair for Excellence in Journalism and head of the Department of Journalism. "We have faculty research expertise in credibility assessment, and we have a strong relationship with news organizations in Georgia that could benefit from this critically important project."

The Trusting News Project is also supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Democracy Fund.

Newsource, G-Span elevate visibility of student journalism



Grady College students have two new innovative outlets to publish their work. Grady Newsource, the journalism capstone class and news organization covering northeast Georgia, has launched a new website to publish content from student journalists and provide an interactive look at the journalism process. Accompanying the site is G-Span, a 24/7 television station operated out of Grady College that broadcasts throughout campus and the Athens area.

Student journalists publish their work digitally on gradynewsource.uga.edu and select articles feature annotations through which reporters reflect on the newsgathering process and further explain the decisions behind their reporting.

"Being transparent about what we do as journalists is very important," said Janice Hume, the Carolyn McKenzie and Don E. Carter Chair for Excellence in Journalism, and head of the Department of Journalism.

"We, as journalists, need to increase credibility with our audiences," said Amanda Bright, an academic professional in journalism at Grady. "We are in a place at Grady College where student journalists can try new things, think outside of the box and see what works."

All measurable audience statistics have increased since as the website content has been revamped. The average visitor to gradynewsource.uga.edu is on the site for four minutes, a 75% increase from early 2018.

Future plans for the website include a social news desk to better integrate social media with the site, weekly email newsletters and collaboration with Grady College's New Media Institute to develop a Grady Newsource mobile app.

HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Media+Leadership Academy

Sixty high school students will get a taste of Grady College life during the Media and Leadership Academy June 16–21, 2019. The residential program is focused on experiential learning and is open to rising high school sophomores to seniors interested in the mass communication field.

Participants choose from one of three tracks: Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations or Entertainment (video production). They spend the first half of the week learning about their chosen track. Then, they develop specific interest-based skills by working on portfolio team projects. Details, including a video, are available at Grady.uga.edu/apply/high-school-discovery.

THE GRADY SHOW

Register by May 3. Cost is $550. Limited number of need-based scholarships available.

Questions? Please contact Stephanie Moreno, journalismacademy@uga.edu, 706-542-5022.

From top: Participants of the 2018 Media and Leadership Academy

Participants from the AdPR track present their campaign for "Anxiety in Teens" during the closing reception June 8, 2018.

Last year's participants put their leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test at Escape the Space.

next @ grady

APRIL 3	Peabody-Smithgall Lecture: Eric Deggans UGA Chapel
APRIL 9	GSPA Spring Workshop and Awards Georgia Center
APRIL 9	Cox Institute Fellow lecture: Amy Glennon Peyton Anderson Forum
APRIL 10	Dawgs with the Dean Grady College lawn
APRIL 15	McGill Medal Presentation
APRIL 18	Crisis Communications Think Tank Peyton Anderson Forum
APRIL 18	AdPR Executive Council meeting
APRIL 26	Grady Society Alumni Board meeting
APRIL 26	Grady Board of Trust meeting
APRIL 26	Grady Salutes Athens Cotton Press
APRIL 27	New Media Institute SLAM Georgia Museum of Art
MAY 8	Spring Convocation Classic Center
MAY 10	Grady Senior Sendoff Peyton Anderson Forum
MAY 10	UGA Commencement Sanford Stadium
MAY 18	Peabody Awards Cipriani Wall Street, New York
MAY 13–18	Radio Talent Institute
JUNE 12	Grady Giving Day
JUNE 16–21	Media and Leadership Academy
JUNE 26	LA reception
JULY 28–Aug. 2	Management Seminar for College News Editors (MSCNE)
AUGUST 8	AEJMC Reception, Toronto

Details are subject to change. For the most up-to-date event listings, please visit **Grady.uga.edu/events.**

WE WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Just relocated or changed email? Please update your address, email or other contact info at: Alumni.uga.edu/MyInfo. Thank you.

FALL CONVOCATION
Graduates Linda Nguyen and Ann Tran capture a memory after Fall Convocation.

SILICON VALLEY
AdPR students and faculty members started the new year with their third annual Silicon Valley trip. Company tours included Twitter, Adobe (pictured in their upside room) and eBay, among others. Thanks to Suzy Deering, chief marketing officer at eBay and UGA alumna, and her team for sponsoring the trip.

grady highlights

SUPER BOWL
Gillian McIntyre, Sydney Kohne and Sam Walters, all Grady Sports Media students, interview former UGA running back Sony Michel during Super Bowl week. Photo: Carlo Finlay

COMING HOME
The 2018 Homecoming tailgate on the Grady College lawn welcomed back Grady College alumni, including Teman Worku (ABJ '16) and Bilan Ali (ABJ '15).

A CAPITOL GROUP
PRSSA students participated in their annual tour of Washington, D.C., in February. Visits to the Pentagon, Red Cross and agencies were highlights.

BEST OF PHOTOJOURNALISM

This marks the first year that the National Press Photographers Association's Best of Photojournalism competition was hosted at Grady College. An awards show was produced announcing the winners and included an interview with William Snyder, BOP director. Sydney Shadrix, a journalism master's student, and Zachary Miles, a journalism student, helped produce the show.

NMI SLAM

(Below) New Media Institute students Abbey Miner and Rachael Dier chat at SLAM, the capstone presentation for New Media Institute projects. Dier and her group developed an app for UGArden.

TRUE SOUTH

(r-l) Vicki Michaelis, André Gallant, Valerie Boyd and John T. Edge at the screening of an episode of "True South" featuring Athens. The event was sponsored by the MFA Narrative Media Writing program during its January residency.

MCGILL SYMPOSIUM

(Left) ESPN's Ivan Maisel chats with journalism students after his McGill Symposium talk about "When reporting becomes personal."

D.C. ALUMNI

(Right) Grady alumnae Anna Carver (ABJ '08) and Vivian Greentree (ABJ '00) mingle at the Washington D.C. Alumni Reception in February 2019.

STORY WALL

Environmental displays graphically telling the Grady story have been installed on the second floor of the college.

Kevin Schatell (ABJ '16), NBC News

Meredith Dean (ABJ '14), Seacrest Studios

Orlando Pimentel (ABJ '17), Porter Novelli

SHOW US YOUR GRADY SPIRIT

It's always a pleasure showing the faces of our Grady alumni and the places they go.

As a way of visualizing the Grady spirit for our new environmental displays at the college, we need your help.

#MyGradyStory

What is your Grady story? All alumni are invited to submit a picture with the sign below showing their Grady story at work, at play, during your travels or accomplishing your goals.

Email us a copy of your image for consideration for our collage of Grady faces and places. Feel free to share it on social media, too, tagging #MyGradyStory.

Tim Mapes (ABJ '86), Delta Airlines

(l. to r.) Emily Robinson (ABJ '05), Melissa Libby (ABJ '85) and Allison Goldstein (ABJ '14)

Kristi Malloy (ABJ '05) and Ryan Carty (ABJ '09), SunTrust.

Young Alumni

If you graduated from Grady College within the last 10 years, we would like to see photographs of you in your place of work, doing your job or with your company logo.

We plan to use these pictures in a special digital display to show our current students the kinds of jobs recent graduates have enjoyed just a few years out of school.

Pictures with the #MyGradyStory signage are welcome in addition; however, we prefer these young alumni pictures not to have the sign.

Send all photos in as high-resolution format as possible to Sarah Freeman, freemans@uga.edu.

While this will be an ongoing project, we hope to receive the first batch of pictures by May 1, 2019.

Grady College of Journalism
and Mass Communication
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

#MyGradyStory

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication

120 Hooper Street · Athens, GA 30602-3018
Phone: (706) 542-1704 · FAX: (706) 542-2183

We are always grateful for financial support of our mission and programs for students and faculty. If you would like to contribute to our success, please visit Grady.uga.edu/philanthropy.

Connect with us: Grady.uga.edu

UGA Grady
@UGAGrady
UGAGrady
Grady College
UGA Grady
@UGAGrady

The University of Georgia does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information or military service in its administrations of educational policies, programs, or activities; its admissions policies; scholarship and loan programs; athletic or other University-administered programs; or employment. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the Equal Opportunity Office 119 Holmes-Hunter Academic Building, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. Telephone 706-542-7912 (V/TDD). Fax 706-542-2822. https://eoo.uga.edu

ABOUT THE COVER: Grady Greats featured Grady alumni sharing journalism insights with a live studio audience. The discussion was led by moderator, Charlayne Hunter-Gault (ABJ '63), and included panelists Deborah Roberts (ABJ '82), Deborah Norville (ABJ '79), Lisa Ryan Howard (ABJ '92) and Will Carr (ABJ '06).

Please join us for

GRADY SALUTES

A Celebration of Achievement, Commitment and Leadership

Honoring the 2019 Alumni Award recipients and the Grady Fellowship and Sanford Circle inductees.

Friday, April 26, 2019 · 6 p.m.
Athens Cotton Press
149 Oneta Street, Athens

Tickets and sponsorships available at Grady.uga.edu/alumni/grady-salutes.