

Inducted November 5, 2015

Charlayne Hunter-Gault



Charlayne Hunter-Gault was born in Due West, South Carolina, although she spent a majority of her childhood in Covington, Georgia and Atlanta. In 1961, she and Hamilton Holmes made history when they became the first African-American students to enroll at the University of Georgia.

Hunter-Gault graduated from UGA in 1963 with a degree in journalism and began her career as an editorial assistant at *The New Yorker* and went on to write short stories and also become one of the magazine's *Talk of the Town* reporters. Later, she worked as a local news anchor for NBC in Washington, D.C., eventually joining the staff of *The New York Times* as a metropolitan reporter. Hunter-Gault opened the newspaper's first Harlem bureau.

She later joined PBS working for *The MacNeil/Lehrer Report* and *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. In 1997, Hunter-Gault moved to South Africa to become the chief correspondent in Africa for National Public Radio. Later, in 1999, she served as CNN's Johannesburg bureau chief until 2005.

In 1985, UGA created the Holmes-Hunter Lecture, created during its bicentennial and focusing on social justice, race, diversity and education. In 2001, during the 40th anniversary of UGA's desegregation, the building in which she and Hamilton first registered for classes was renamed the Holmes-Hunter Building. In 1988, Hunter-Gault became the first African-American to deliver UGA's commencement speech. She has authored four books, including *In My Place*, regarding her experiences at UGA.

Hunter-Gault recently launched a year-long series for the *PBS NewsHour* on solutions to the race problem in the US. She also regularly speaks on race, diversity, international relations, gender issues and journalism. She has won two Emmys and two Peabody awards, holds more than three dozen honorary degrees, and sits on the board of the Carter Center and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Hunter-Gault currently lives with her husband, Ronald T. Gault, dividing her time between Sarasota, Florida and Martha's Vineyard.