

# Charlayne Hunter-Gault

The University of Georgia's first Black female student



Known for its journalism department, the University of Georgia seemed out of reach for Hunter, who initially enrolled at Wayne State University in Detroit after graduating from high school. "With a passion bordering on obsession, I wanted to be a journalist, a dream that would have been, if not unthinkable, at least undosable in the South of my early years. But no one ever told me not to dream."



January 9, 1961  
Hunter and classmate Hamilton Holmes register for classes—officially integrating UGA



1962  
The university assigns Mary Frances Early to share Hunter's suite in Myers Hall. Early was pursuing a master's degree in music education and would go on to be the first Black graduate of the University of Georgia. In 2020, the Mary Frances Early School of Education was named in her honor



June 1, 1961  
Graduation day: "Only Hamp and I could really appreciate the special sweetness of this final moment of our unique history together." Following graduation, Charlayne serves a stint as the first black staffer at *The New Yorker* in Manhattan, and worked for *The New York Times*—creating the post of Harlem bureau chief



2022  
Publishes *My People: Five Decades of Writing About Black Lives*

2019  
A grant from Giving Voice to the Voiceless establishes the Black Alumni Oral History Project at UGA, which expands the understanding of the Black experience on campus over the decades

2018  
Delivers the annual Holmes-Hunter Lecture at UGA

2017  
Hunter-Gault and husband Ronald Gault start the Giving Voice to the Voiceless endowment, which provides grants to university students to promote social justice and global understanding

2015  
Inducted into the Atlanta Press Club Hall of Fame



1985  
The first Holmes-Hunter lecture takes place at UGA

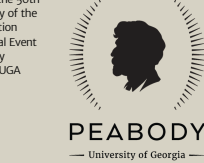


1986  
The National Association of Black Journalists names her Journalist of the Year

1981  
Joins the alumni advisory board for Grady College

1977  
Becomes a national correspondent for Public Television's *MacNeill/Lehrer Newshour*, where she spends 20 years

1979  
Films a documentary at UGA on the evolution of race relations in Georgia



2011  
Speaks at the 50th Anniversary of the Desegregation Institutional Event Anniversary Lecture at UGA

2009-2015  
Serves as a member of the Peabody Awards Board of Jurors



1998  
Accepts the position of bureau chief of CNN International in Johannesburg

1990  
Receives the Sidney Hillman Award for her six-part series, "Out of Reach: People at the Bottom." Her television series on South Africa, "Apartheid's People," received the George Foster Peabody Award for Excellence

1992  
Establishes the Holmes-Hunter Scholarship at UGA

June 11, 1988  
Hunter-Gault delivers the commencement address, the first Black person to do so. "If I had to do it all over again, I might hope for less of a struggle, but even so, today, I would welcome the challenge, if for no other reason than to hear the young Black man who... introduced himself to me with the sweetest greeting of them all. He said, 'Hello, Charlayne. I'm a fellow Dawg.'"

2003  
Delivers the Darl Snyder Lecture at UGA

2001  
UGA's academic building is renamed the Holmes-Hunter Academic Building to "salute the courage and fortitude displayed by these students and their families in paving the way for others to follow."

2009-2017  
Serves on the board at the Carter Center

2007  
Publishes *New News: Out of Africa: Uncovering Africa's Renaissance*

2018  
Hunter-Gault was the keynote speaker at UGA's annual Holmes-Hunter lecture

