Norman Fries

The annual Norman Fries Distinguished Lectureship Series is sponsored by an endowed fund established to honor Mr. Fries, the founder of Claxton Poultry and former senior statesman of the poultry industry in Georgia. He passed away in December 2001.

Mr. Fries built his business from scratch—on a truck, one cooler and one employee—into one of the nation's largest poultry production plants with 1,600 employees, more than 300 family farm suppliers and an international market.

Throughout his 50-plus years in the poultry business, one constant marked Mr. Fries' career: a solid commitment to remaining an independent poultry producer. He served as past president and director of the Georgia Poultry Federation and director of the National Broiler Council and the Georgia Improvement Lab. He was also a life member of the Georgia Poultry Federation Poultry Leaders Roundtable.

As a boy growing up in Savannah, Mr. Fries ran bicycle deliveries of fresh chicken from his father's City Market store to homes downtown. After serving in the Navy in World War II and earning a college degree, Mr. Fries returned to Savannah to start his own business. Mr. Fries recognized that retail poultry was changing from his father's freshly dressed, home-delivered birds to store-bought, prepackaged, fresh poultry. In 1959, he opened Claxton Poultry, which today is one of the largest fully integrated poultry plants in America.

His company continues its tradition as a privately held family business with the Fries children and grandchildren.

Past Fries Lecturers

Professor James C. Humes (2001)
Ryals Chair of Language and Leadership, University of Southern Colorado
David Oreck (2002)
Founder and CEO of Oreck Vaccumus
Mark Mathabane (2003)
South African Apartheid Author and Lecturer
Executive Vice President of Health Management Associates, Inc.
James W. "Jim" Kennedy (2005)
Director of NASA, Kennedy Space Center
Charles H. Morris (2006)
President and CEO, Morris Multimedia, Inc.
Bert Roughton, Jr. (2007)
Managing Editor/Print Edition, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Author, Historian
Dr. Steven N. Blair (2009)
Professor, University of South Carolina

Dr. William D. Phillips (2010)
Nobel Prize-winning physicist
Jimmy Dunne (2011)
Senior Managing Principal, Sandler O'Neil + Partners, L.P.
Dr. Richard Arum (2012)
Professor of Sociology and Education, New York University
Dr. Adeleke Troutman (2013)
President, American Public Health Association
Susan Orlean (2014)
Best-Selling Author, Journalist, Essayist
Dr. Russell Gore (2015)
Medical Director, Sports Concussion Institute
Dr. Frans De Waal (2016)
C.H. Candler Professor of Psychology, Emory University
Colonel, USAF, Ret., NASA Astronaut (Former)

FREDERICK D. GREGORY

Contributions and Other Stuff Later Discoversd
An Astronaut's View of Choices, Influences,

Introduction of Speaker. Placeholder

Position, Placeholder

Welcome & Acknowledgments

Closing Remarks. Placeholder

Distinguished Lecture Series

The Norman Fries

Nasa Astronaut (Former)

A. Gregory

Col. Frederick