Norman Fries

The annual Norman Fries Distinguished Lectureship Series is sponsored by an endowment 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—one 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 Vacuums

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’Neill + Partners, L.P.

Dr. Richard Arum (2012)
Professor of Sociology and Education, New York University

Dr. Adele I. 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

The Norman Fries Distinguished Lectureship Series presents

FREDERICK D. GREGORY
Colonel, USAF, Ret., NASA Astronaut (Former)

Thursday, October 5, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Nessmith-Lane Assembly Hall
Nessmith-Lane Conference Center

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Frederick D. Gregory

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

Introduction of Speaker

Welcome & Acknowledgements

Distinguished Lecture Series
The Norman Fries

Col. Frederick

Nasa Astronaut (former)