

Conrad Charles Fink, who, after a 25-year career as a foreign correspondent and executive for The Associated Press, became a distinguished Professor of Journalism at the University of Georgia, died Saturday in Athens, Ga., at age 79. He lived part-time in Sharon Springs, NY an area that he considered his spiritual home.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Fink served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years. He then worked as a night editor in Chicago, and from there, he moved to the Associated Press where he worked first as a foreign correspondent and, later, as a vice president for the AP in New York City. His career as a foreign correspondent during the 1960s took him to major conflict zones in Southeast Asia and the former Soviet Union. Between 1967 and 1970, he was executive director of the AP-Dow Jones Economic Report in London.

He began his teaching career in 1983 at the Henry W. Grady College of Journalism at UGA where he became a legendary teacher, highly respected and much beloved by his students for his capacity to bring his real-world experience into the classroom. His publications include a dozen textbooks that have been translated widely and sold to journalism and media management students around the world.

He held the William S. Morris Chair in Newspaper Strategy and Management at Grady College where he also developed a residence program for visiting professional journalists and, most recently, spearheaded the creation of an endowed program in sports journalism. His teaching accolades were many: he was appointed the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2004; he won the Regents Teaching Excellence Award in 2004 and the Freedom Forum's National Journalism Teacher of the Year Award in 2002; and he was awarded the Grady College's Superior Teaching Award in 1986, 1998, 1991, and 1992. In fall 2011, Fink was the first faculty member to be inducted into the Grady Fellowship, a society of Grady's most accomplished alumni and friends.

Conrad Charles Fink is survived by his wife, Sue Carol (Henry); daughter Karen Eliot; son Conrad Stephan Fink and his wife Catherine (Lewis); his siblings Donald Fink, Kathryn Herman, and Elizabeth Hynes; and granddaughters Emily and Eliza Fink. He was predeceased by his parents Donald Ellsworth and Mary Ruth Fink and by his beloved aunt, Olive Fox, of Marquette, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions in his name be

made to the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Georgia. He will be buried in Sharon Springs, N.Y., near his Alta Vista farm. Services to be held Saturday, January 21st at 2:00pm at the Ames-Sprout Brook United Methodist Church in Ames, NY. Plans for a UGA community memorial service will be announced at a later date.