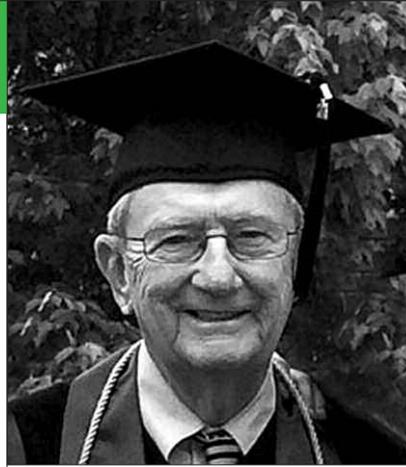


# It's Never Too Late!

**Bob Brennan** has worn many hats during his 85 years, but he may be proudest of the most recent—a mortarboard for his May graduation from Georgia State University. A native of Chicago, Bob served in the Army during the Korean War, receiving a Purple Heart for his service. After the war he attended Loyola on the GI Bill, but he left in 1959 when a friend offered him a job making newsreels for Hearst Metrotone News. Television news would soon replace the newsreel, and Bob grew with the new medium; he became a reporter and producer in Chicago and then New York. One early interview was with First Lady **Bess Truman**, and as it was completed, Bob looked down in dismay to find the tape unraveled at his feet. (Bess graciously agreed to a redo).

In the mid 1960s Bob became Southern Bureau Chief for CBS, and he and his young family relocated to Atlanta. Although he wouldn't move to Ansley Park for decades, he got a preview of the neighborhood when a realtor showed him several "crash" houses here. Bob didn't realize at first what that meant, but the houses were on the market because the owners had been among the 106 Atlanta cultural leaders who had died in the 1962 Orly Airport crash outside Paris.

The Civil Rights Movement was the story of the day, and Bob met many of its important leaders, from **Andy Young** to **Ralph David Abernathy** to **Dr. Martin Luther King** himself. He covered Dr. King's assassination and funeral, and sometime later was called to a meeting at the King home to discuss ways to honor Dr. King. Bob was struck by the normalcy of family life there, with **Coretta Scott King** directing her children to clean their rooms and serving homemade fruitcake. He asked to take a piece of fruitcake home, because he wanted to prove to his children he



wasn't making it up. She did him one better and signed a biography of Dr. King for his family.

From CBS, Bob went to WAGA, the Chamber of Commerce, then MARTA, and he also served for many years as president of the Atlanta

Track Club. He represented MARTA at a 1988 meeting about bringing the Olympics to Atlanta. Although he had been part of an exploratory committee to do just that ten years earlier, Bob was skeptical but soon realized how serious the effort was. He became Press Chief during the Olympics and was later awarded the Olympic Order, the highest award given by the International Olympic Committee.

Retirement slowed Bob only slightly, and he became a master gardener and an active volunteer with the Botanical Garden, which named him 2001 Volunteer of the Year. When he realized that GSU's 62+ program would allow him to go to school for free, he jumped at the chance to complete his degree. Although failing eyesight and an aversion to math conspired against him, with the help of GSU's disability services, two math tutors, and dedicated faculty advisors, Bob received his B.A. in English. He began his memoir as part of his coursework. Like Bob, it promises to be fascinating.

## The APCA congratulates the following recent graduate and her family.

**Brooke Lewis**, daughter of **Jeanie and Todd Lewis**, 195 Seventeenth Street, graduated from Vanderbilt University with a BA in art history and a minor in studio art.

*Graduation notices are placed by the families of graduates. Please let us know if you would like a shout out to your graduate by contacting [ansleyphile@ansleypark.org](mailto:ansleyphile@ansleypark.org)*



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