



Search

[Home](#) >> [Resources](#) >> Grady News

News @ Grady

Alumni News
Last Updated: 02/16/07

[Back >>](#)



Alumnus Shoots Footage for Tomcat Documentary

12/20/06

Author: William Papa, Sherrie Whaley
Contact: Dr. Sherrie Whaley, swhaley@grady.uga.edu

[E-mail this article](#)
[Printer friendly Version](#)

Grady College alumnus William Papa (MA '97) traveled to the aircraft carrier *USS Theodore Roosevelt* earlier this year to record the last launch of the F-14 Tomcat fighter plane.

The event marked the end of the line for the venerable aircraft that has been in service with the Navy for more than three decades. Papa, an independent producer from Marietta, needed footage for a planned documentary with a working title of "The Last Flight of the Tomcat."



Access was very limited and the Navy gave Papa only one slot to fly out to the *USS Theodore Roosevelt*, which meant he would be operating as a one-man band. Long dormant camera skills not employed since his undergraduate days would need to be revived, Papa realized. "The active flight deck of an aircraft carrier was a heck of a place to relearn these skills," he said.

Fortunately, the Navy recognized that it is next to impossible to operate alone on a carrier and assigned Papa a very capable assistant, Airman Darchelle Mitchell. Even though it was her first cruise, she was aware of the people and procedures on board allowing Papa to get the material he needed. She enlisted the support of

News Sections

- [All News](#)
- [AD/PR](#)
- [Alumni](#)
- [Graduate Studies](#)
- [Journalism](#)
- [Telecommunications](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Alumni](#)
- [Departments](#)
- [Graduate Studies](#)
- [Undergraduate](#)
- Resources**
- [Business Office](#)
- [Career Services](#)
- [Faculty Pages](#)
- [Find an Expert](#)
- [Got E-mail?](#)
- [Listserv Info](#)
- [Master Calendar](#)
- [News@Grady](#)
- [Research@Grady](#)
- [Researching J&MC Topics](#)
- [Student Organizations](#)
- [Student Showcase](#)
- [Videos@Grady](#)
- [Policies@Grady](#)
- [About Grady](#)
- [Service & Outreach](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Quick Links

- [Dean's Message to Students](#)
- [All Grady Faculty](#)
- [CDC Grant](#)
- [Knight Health](#)
- [Grady Ambassadors](#)
- [Centers & Institutes](#)
- [Grady Maps](#)
- [Grady Calendar](#)
- [Student Showcase](#)
- [Grady Convocation](#)
- [Undergraduate Scholarship Application](#)
- [Advisor Survey](#)

Airman Leo Gillespie, who became the second unit cameraman for the shoot.

UGA Links

- ▶ The Red And Black
- ▶ University of Georgia
- ▶ Athletic Association
- ▶ MyUGA
- ▶ Alumni Association
- ▶ UGA Alumni E-News
- ▶ Arch Foundation
- ▶ Diversity @ UGA



When the time came for the historic launches, Papa had three camera positions. Gillespie was on the bridge for wide shots of the launches from the bow and waist catapults. A second position was a Navy camera crew onboard a SH-60 Seahawk helicopter positioned ahead of the ship. From their vantage point, they would have a spectacular view of the ship and the launches. Papa was on the flight deck, sandwiched between the two bow catapults.

The event was being covered as though it was a three-camera switched remote, Papa said. Even though the Navy camera failed, the documentary producer was left with more than enough material to provide a worthy chronicle of the final launches for his production.



The carrier footage is in post-production while Papa collects additional elements to include in the documentary.

Papa is president of ARGO Connections, Inc., a Georgia-based broadcasting company with offices in Oak Harbor, Washington. For more than 20 years, ARGO has specialized in the design, implementation and operation of transmission networks for special event broadcasts providing services at venues such as the Olympics, World Cup Soccer, political conventions and ad-hoc events.



Alumni News

Last Updated: 02/16/07

[Home](#) . [Admissions](#) . [Undergraduate](#) . [Graduate](#) . [Resources](#) . [Departments](#) . [About Grady](#) . [Service & Outreach](#) . [Contact](#) . [Diversity@Grady](#)
 . [Site Map](#) . [Text-Only Version](#)

Copyright © 2007 Grady College at [The University of Georgia](#) All Rights Reserved

This site was created and designed by [J House Media](#)