Hank Klibanoff, while managing editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, was honored with the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for his book The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation,” which he co-wrote with former New York Times managing editor Eugene Roberts.

“The Race Beat” lays open in meticulously reported detail the faults and successes of both South and national coverage of the civil rights movement.

Klibanoff, who was born in Florence, is director of the journalism program at Emory University and the Civil Rights Cold Case Project, which uses multimedia investigative reporting to investigate unsolved racial crimes.

Much of “The Race Beat” covers specifically Alabama events: the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the near-lynching of the first black student at the University of Alabama in 1956, the Freedom Riders, the Selma to Montgomery marches, the Birmingham 16th Street Baptist Church bombing and Gov. George Wallace’s famous “Stand in the Schoolhouse Door.”

Klibanoff also serves on the John Chancellor Excellence in Journalism Award Committee at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and is on the board of VOX Teen Communications, an Atlanta nonprofit after-school program that uses print and online journalism to help teens develop the skills and resources to express themselves.

“The Race Beat’ may be the most important book ever written on how the press covered the most important social movement in the 20th Century. It stands alone in revealing whatever truths we can ever really know about that part of our history.”

— Judy Sheppard, AU journalism professor

Hank Klibanoff
Pulitzer Prize-winning author