

2013 Hall of Fame Inductee

Gerald J. Fishman

Class of 1961

Gerald “Jerry” Jay Fishman’s interest in science began in childhood and grew through his years at University City High School where he graduated in 1961.

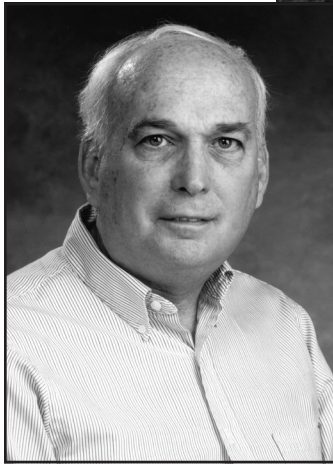
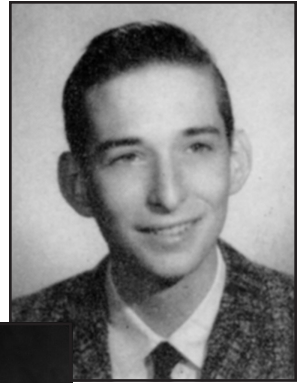
In 1965, Fishman received a Bachelor of Science with honors in physics from the University of Missouri - Columbia. Five years later, he earned his doctorate in space science from Rice University in Texas where he began his gamma-ray observations.

Fishman began his 38-year career at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in

1974. As a senior astrophysicist, he focused on the study and detection of gamma-ray bursts, invisible, high-energy radiation and is noted as project advisor and principal investigator for the design and construction of the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory. He has more than 900 publications with about 140 first-author articles, and about 13,000 citations.

Among his numerous career recognitions are three NASA Medals for Outstanding Scientific Achievement and the recently-received NASA Exceptional Service Medal. In 2011, Fishman received China’s coveted Shaw Prize in Astronomy for his leadership of space missions that demonstrated the cosmological origin of gamma-ray bursts.

Fishman and his wife Nancy have been married for more than 45 years, have two daughters and three granddaughters, all of whom live in Alabama where they enjoy hiking in the woods, working their nearby ranch and getting away to travel extensively.



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