2009 Philanthropists of the Year
ADA LEE AND PETE CORRELL
Nominated by Emory University

Ada Lee and A. D. “Pete” Correll are one of Atlanta’s most dynamic couples. Excelling in business, philanthropy, and civic leadership, they have left a wide mark on our community. As Chairman and CEO of Georgia-Pacific Corporation for 13 years, Pete Correll established himself as one of the Southeast’s top business leaders. Under his direction, Georgia-Pacific was recognized with the Catalyst Award for the recruitment and advancement of women. Other honors and awards he has received include: Central Atlanta Progress Dan Sweat Award; Georgia Trend Most Respected Business Leader; Salvation Army “Doing the Most Good” Community Service Award; and with his wife Ada Lee, the Buckhead Rotary Club’s Ross Johnson Humanitarian Award. Today, he serves as Chairman of Atlanta Equity.

The survivor of a near-fatal heart attack, Mr. Correll has refocused his expertise and business acumen toward the revitalization of Grady Memorial Hospital. Elected Chairman of the charity hospital’s new board earlier this year, he is leading the effort to save and restore the 116-year-old institution and the region’s only 24-hour trauma center. Other nonprofit boards he has served on include the UGA Terry College of Business, the Carter Center, the Nature Conservancy, the Georgia Research Alliance, Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the University of Georgia Foundation, Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Woodruff Arts Center, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Georgia Conservancy, and the Georgia Aquarium. He has also chaired the Zoo Atlanta’s successful capital campaign in 1995 and the United Negro College Fund Atlanta Campaign.

Learning the value of volunteerism and giving back from an early age, Ada Lee Correll has poured her time and talents into almost every meaningful cause in Atlanta. The daughter of a school teacher, she has directed much of her efforts to improving opportunities for Georgia’s next generation of leaders, including the Boys & Girls Club of Atlanta, the ARCS Foundation, the Young Audiences at Woodruff program, the Fox Theater, the Alliance Theater, the Atlanta Symphony, UNICEF, Leadership Atlanta, the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation, and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation, among others. She is a 2005 member of the YWCA’s Academy of Women, and has received the Alexis de Tocqueville award from the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta Inc., where her photo hangs in their community service gallery. She is also on the Board of Visitors of Emory, and is chairing the Emory University School of Medicine Capital Campaign. Mrs. Correll has chaired multiple balls and gala events. The Heart Ball she organized in Atlanta netted more than $1 million for the American Heart Association (AHA), a national record-breaking amount. Beyond Atlanta, she has graciously given back to her hometown of Swainsboro, Georgia, in the memory of her mother, with the dedication of the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center at East Georgia College.

Numerous organizations have benefited from the talents, time and generosity of the Corrells. Uniting two organizations important to them, in 2006 they founded the Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health at the Georgia Aquarium with a $2.5 million gift, which offers University of Georgia students a unique opportunity for the practice and research of aquatic veterinary medicine. Their $2.5 million gift to the Emory University School of Medicine funded four new term professorships for five years. Mr. and Mrs. Correll have both experienced health issues, that have been treated at Emory Hospital. They were the chairs of Gala celebrating Emory School of Medicine’s 150th anniversary and have established endowed scholarships in honor of their mothers at Georgia Southern and the University of Maine, as well as a Community Learning Center at East Georgia College in honor of Ada Lee’s mother, and the Boys and Girls Teen Center in Brunswick named for Pete’s mother.

A native of Brunswick, Georgia, Pete received a M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maine, a M.S. in Pulp and Paper Technology from the University of Maine, and a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Georgia. Ada Lee graduated with a degree in education from the University of Georgia, and is a former teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Correll are long standing members of Trinity Presbyterian Church, have two children, Alston Correll III, a law partner with McKenna Long & Aldridge, and Elizabeth Richards, a homemaker and community volunteer. They have 5 grandchildren.