



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Media Contact:****Jason Carter  
(919) 680-8320****[Jason@durham-cvb.com](mailto:Jason@durham-cvb.com)**

## **Durham Honors its Nationally Acclaimed Chefs**

*Durham CVB Event Showcases Durham's Unique Sense of Place*

(DURHAM, N.C. – March 7, 2007) A sell-out crowd of nearly 450 Durham community leaders gathered at the American Tobacco Campus' Bay 7 today for the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau's Annual Tribute Luncheon honoring the nine chefs who first ignited national acclaim for culinary art as a signature part of Durham's unique sense of place.

The Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau (DCVB) orchestrates the public event each year to honor individuals or groups who have made remarkable contributions to preserve and foster Durham's unique sense of place and its creative, genuine, and original identity. This year, proceeds from the luncheon benefitted Durham Careers in Hospitality (DCIH), a workforce partnership between DCVB and Durham Public Schools.

The nine chefs honored at the sold-out luncheon were:

- Ben and Karen Barker (Magnolia Grill)
- Mary Bacon (Anotherthyme Restaurant & Bar)
- Giorgios Bakatsias (George's Garage, Grasshopper, Parizäde, Verde, and Vin Rouge French Café & Wine Bar)
- Tommy Bullock (Bullock's Bar-B-Que)
- Geneva and Wilma Dillard for the late Sam Dillard (Dillard's Bar-B-Que House)
- Sara Foster (Foster's Market)
- Scott Howell (Nana's Restaurant)
- Gary Wein (Savory Fare, Inc.)

In addition to honoring these chefs, the luncheon demonstrated what it means for a destination like Durham to have, protect, and grow a unique sense of place while showcasing what makes Durham such an attractive destination for visitors.

"Foodies across the region and the nation now recognize Durham and its dining scene as a place where great things happen, thanks to what these chefs started," said Reyn Bowman, president and CEO of DCVB.

Sally Webb and The Special Events Company collaborated with DCVB to produce the entire event, which included documentary-style videos of the chefs directed by Ted Roach and produced by RDU-919 Music and Films, which recently won Best Documentary for Welcome to Durham, USA at the New York International Film Festival.

Several members of Durham's next generation of great chefs collaborated to prepare the meal served at the event including Dan Ferguson of The Original Q-Shack, Sam Poley of Restaurant Starlu, Claudia Cooper of Guglhupf Bakery and Pâtisserie, Chris Stinnett and John Vandergrift of Pop's-A Durham Trattoria and Rue Cler, and Tom Ferguson of Durham Catering Company, who pulled the menu together.

A complete listing of Durham's nationally renowned restaurants is available on the Web at [www.durham-nc.com/dining/celebratedcuisine.php](http://www.durham-nc.com/dining/celebratedcuisine.php).

The wait staff included 35 students from Durham Careers in Hospitality (DCIH).

Past DCVB Annual Tribute Luncheon honorees include philanthropist Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans, historian and author Dr. John Hope Franklin, former City Councilman Chuck Grubb, Duke Basketball Coach Mike Krzyzewski, and former North Carolina Central University chancellors Dr. LeRoy Walker and Dr. Julius Chambers.

Presenting sponsors for the tribute luncheon were American Tobacco Campus, Durham Catering Co., and The Special Event Company.

Platinum sponsors were AT&T-The Real Yellow Pages®, BellSouth, Duke University Health System, Greenfire Development, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Struever Brothers, Eccles, & Rouse, Inc. SunTrust Bank, and U.S. Food Service.

Gold sponsors were American Airlines and WRAZ-TV, Fox 50.

Contributing sponsors were American Audio-Video, American Party Rentals, Designs By Sean, Special Events Rentals, RDU-919 Music and Films, vocalist Susan Reeves, The Original Q-Shack, Restaurant Starlu, Guglhupf Bakery and Pâtisserie, Pop's-A Durham Trattoria, and Rue Cler.

###

Durham News Service is a service of the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, a local tourism development authority and the official destination marketing organization for Durham, North Carolina, including Research Triangle Park.

**DURHAM**   
*Convention & Visitors Bureau*  
101 East Morgan Street, Durham, NC 27701 USA  
(919) 687-0288 | (800) 446-8604  
TDD (919) 688-8680 | FAX (919) 683-9555  
[www.durham-nc.com](http://www.durham-nc.com)