



For Immediate Release

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## **Employee Promotions Announced**

Virginia Beach, Va. (December 16, 2008) – The Founders Inn and Spa is proud to announce recent staff promotions.

Tade Allen has been promoted to sales and marketing director. Earlier this year, she was honored as Sales Director of the Year by Benchmark Hospitality International. Allen is also a long-term member of Benchmark's Platinum Club, which recognizes consistency in superior sales performance.

Kelly Henry joined The Founders Inn December, 2006 as the sales administrative assistant. She rapidly moved to the marketing information coordinator in February, 2008 and recently to the marketing information and group rooms coordinator in October 2008. Previous to that she was the home office manager for Heaven & Earth Bookstores for two and a half years.

Christy Tolliver has been promoted to assistant director of conference planning services. With over 17 years of hospitality experience, a natural drive and a focus on excellence, she steps into this central role with energy and finesse. She joined The Founders Inn and Spa in March, 2007, as conference planning manager; only four months later she earned July 2007 Manager of the Quarter. Ms. Tolliver has been affiliated with the Association of Bridal Consultants since 2001 and has acted as a part of the Association for Convention Operations Management since 2004. Previously, she's held the position of project manager for Your Conference Connection in Wilmington, North Carolina and more recently was director of catering, sales and marketing at Kiln Creek Golf Club & Resort in Newport News.

Heather Tyng, marketing coordinator, is a 2002 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in Communication Art and Design and a 2006 graduate of Eastern Virginia Medical School with a MS in Behavioral Health. Beginning January of 2008, Heather began working for The Founders Inn and Spa where she is responsible for designing all of the print and electronic media distributed and displayed in local and regional advertising campaigns.

Previously she worked for Turnstile Publishing Company, Orlando, FL - a publishing house that produces **Golfweek** magazine and **Fish & Fly** magazine, both national publications. While employed there, she gained experience designing page layouts, advertisements and media kits among other things, like learning to play golf.

Jim Friling took over as food & beverage director in October, 2008, having come with an extensive background in banquet management, conference dining room management and has been in hospitality business for 15 years. He previously worked at Lansdowne Resort where he was banquet manager since September, 2004.

Adrielle Bazemore joined the staff in October, 2008 as catering sales manager. She's worked in a variety of areas within the hospitality industry including sales event coordination and convention services management. She's earned a bachelors degree in Hospitality & Tourism Management from Howard University in Washington, D.C. where she was on the dean's list.

(MORE)

#### About The Founders Inn and Spa

Boasting old-world charm and the finest southern hospitality, The Founders Inn and Spa provides the appeal and warmth of a country inn, accented by beautiful antiques and historic artifacts, with a new \$5 million full-service resort spa, grand scale pool featuring a circular slide and interactive fountains, luxurious amenities and award-winning cuisine. The Inn's 240 guestrooms and suites include High Speed Internet access, generous workspace and views of 26 landscaped acres. Select rooms include gas fireplaces, and views of the lake and formal gardens. The Founders Inn and Spa is located at 5641 Indian River Road in Virginia Beach near exit 286B off Interstate 64 East. For reservations and additional information, please call 800-926-4466 or visit [www.FOUNDERSINN.com](http://wwwFOUNDERSINN.com).

Benchmark Hospitality International is a leader in the management and marketing of resorts, conference centers, hotels, and Personal Luxury Hotels™. The privately held company, launched in 1980, is a founding member of the International Association of Conference Centers. Benchmark is a worldwide organization operating over 30 properties representing major metropolitan and resort destinations. Benchmark's international headquarters is located in The Woodlands, Texas, near Houston, with regional offices in New Jersey and Connecticut. International offices are located in Tokyo and Santiago, Chile. For locations of properties and additional information, visit [www.BENCHMARKHOSPITALITY.com](http://www.BENCHMARKHOSPITALITY.com).

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