



Washington Duke
Inn & Golf Club®

**NACE Awards the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club its Best of Awards
Lifetime Achievement to Director of Operations, Food & Beverage Don Ball**

Durham, N.C., March 2, 2015—The Triangle North Carolina Chapter of National Association for Catering and Events (NACE) honored the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club at its annual awards ceremony, The Best of NACE Awards Gala, held at the Preston Country Club in Cary, North Carolina in February. Some of the awards the hotel received included the Best Service at an Event for NACEablanca, Best Plated Food Presentation for the Faculty Dinner Dance and Best Buffet for the 25th Anniversary Donor Recognition. The Inn's Conference Planning Manger Laura Petersen won the Spirit of NACE Award and Director of Operations, Food & Beverage Don Ball garnered the coveted Peter Daymont Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The Inn is thrilled to be recognized with such high praises by NACE during this awards program that honors its members' highest achievements and outstanding contributions to the catering profession," says General Manager Randy Kolls. "The accomplishments of our special event, [wedding](#), catering and [conference services](#), banquet and audiovisual teams is to be commended, and the Peter Daymont Lifetime Achievement honor that Don Ball received was well-deserved indeed."

Kathleen Wright, former NACE president and special events coordinator at Duke University's Nasher Museum of Art said, "The recipient of this special award has fundamentally changed the landscape of our organization and helped make the Triangle North Carolina chapter one of the most recognized in the country. During his term as chapter president, a prime financial infrastructure was put into place. His focus on fiscal responsibility helped set specific financial goals and establish a foundation of revenue to fund scholarships. Always the life of the party, he set a tradition of active board participation with fun themes and costuming, seamlessly integrating education and entertainment. While NACE Triangle President Valerie Ward said, "To honor a great man who [is] a father-figure, a loyal friend, an industry icon and a mentor to so many... the board voted unanimously to name this award, from this day forward, the Peter Daymont Lifetime Achievement Award. I am honored to present the 2015 Peter Daymont Lifetime Achievement Award to NACE's very own Magic Man, Don Ball."



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In addition to local NACE leadership, Ball has also served on a national level as a vice chair of the chapter Presidents' Council, national vice president of membership, and treasurer of the foundation of NACE and launched a legacy of strong chapter presidents. Ball joined the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club in 1997 as general manager of the Fairview Dining Room, the Bull Durham Bar and the hotel's in-room dining service. He soon became director of catering and conference services, leading the department to high levels of service and award-winning dining. In 2001, he was promoted to director of food and beverage and in 2013 was promoted to director of operations, food and beverage. Ball plays an active role in the Inn's day-to-day operations. He also oversees food and beverage services and staff throughout the hotel, including the Fairview Dining Room, Vista Restaurant, Bull Durham Bar, Nineteen Golf Grill, in-room dining services and catering operations. He is still the creative engineer behind many of the Inn's VIP and holiday events. He will celebrate his 18-year anniversary with the hotel in August.

Laura Petersen, NACE's immediate past president and the Inn's conference services manager, was also honored with kind words at the awards ceremony. "We all know and love this next event professional. She walks the walk and talks the talk. She has been an important part of our organization since she joined our chapter, but for the past two years, she has lived and breathed NACE," said NACE Vice President Amy Greene from Going Greene Events. "Her leadership has led to some crucial alliances and a unified board with clear focus on professionalism, fiscal responsibility and presence on a national level." Valerie Ward also added, "Of course, she comes from a legacy of leaders in the Washington Duke family. As voted on by our membership, the Spirit of NACE Award goes to Laura Petersen."

About NACE: NACE is the oldest and largest professional association that addresses all aspects of the catering industry. Through the collective efforts of its members, local chapters, committees and the Foundation of NACE, it is at the forefront of the issues that directly affect its members and businesses. Membership to NACE is available to individuals who supply the catering, event or hospitality industry and also to professors and teachers of accredited college-level courses relating to the catering, special event, special events and hospitality industry.

About the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club: The [Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club is located on the campus of Duke University](#), only twenty minutes from Raleigh-Durham International Airport and ten



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minutes from Research Triangle Park. The Washington Duke Inn is the only AAA Four Diamond hotel in Durham, North Carolina. Nestled on 300 acres filled with tall pines and hardwoods, the Inn is known for its beautiful facility and grounds, 271 elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites, marvelous cuisine in the Fairview Dining Room — winner of the AAA Four Diamond Award, 2014 Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star Award and *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence — the Bull Durham Bar, the Robert Trent Jones-designed 18-hole championship Duke University golf course, and its convenience to local points of interest. It is set apart from other area hotels and conference centers by unparalleled service, a gracious staff, luxurious interiors and attention to detail. The Inn is owned by Duke University and is managed by WDI Durham Management Company of Durham, North Carolina. For more information or reservations call 919.490.0999 or 800.443.3853, or by visiting washingtongdukeinn.com, and on Facebook at facebook.com/WashingtonDukeInn and on Twitter at twitter.com/washingtongduke.

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For Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club images, go to: <http://www.washingtongdukeinn.com/press>.
For logos, please contact one of the media contacts listed above.

Photo caption (from left to right): Catering Sales Manager Danielle Massey, Catering Sales Manager Beth Pendergrass, Catering/Conference Administrative Assistant Chelsea Tabor, Assistant Banquet Manager Ben Pertler, Executive Chef Jason Cunningham, Banquet Manager Vele Luksic, Director of Operations, Food and Beverage Don Ball, Conference Services Manager Laura Petersen, Director of Catering and Conference Services Diane Tighe, Catering and Conference Service Manager Jessie Twisdale and Conference Services Manager Bethany Butti at the Triangle North Carolina Chapter of National Association for Catering and Events' (NACE) The Best of NACE Awards Gala, held at the Preston Country Club in Cary, North Carolina on Feb. 10.



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