

W&M

ALUMNI SPIRIT



Charleston Lowcountry Chapter Yule Log event at the home of Karen Gray Burnett '72 and Lou Burnett '73.

Doing Good While Having a Good Time

South Carolina Chapter Creates Connections ~ MELISSA V. PINARD

Not very many alumni chapters earn the Premier Chapter distinction from the William and Mary Alumni Association. What's particularly remarkable about the Charleston Lowcountry Chapter's rise to prominence is that back in early 2004 it was still just a club. ~ In May 2004, Tiffany Reed Silverman '95 acquired the charter for the Charleston Lowcountry Chapter, having previously revitalized a chapter in Boston. She served as president and led the group to its first Most Outstanding Chapter Tier II award in 2006. For her accomplishments, Silverman was awarded the Young Alumni Service Award in 2007. "When you get interesting people together, interesting things happen," says Silverman. ~ "Drawing on the strengths of our alumni, that's the secret of our success. We have fun, but we always keep the College at the forefront of our mind. We all have a focus on doing good things." ~ Whether cultural entertainment, community service, a cookout for admitted students or business networking events, Charleston's activities cover a wide range of interests. ~ "Our Yule Log is our signature event," says Silverman. "It brings me right back to the Wren Building every year. It's one of the first events we started and the biggest event of the year." ~ For the past five years, the annual Yule Log dinner has been hosted at the home of Karen Gray Burnett '72, the chapter's president since July 2009. Burnett and her husband, Lou Burnett '73, have been key supporters of the chapter from the beginning. ~ "It's an amazing event that has a life of its own, each year more special than the year before," says Burnett. "I thought we couldn't top two years ago when Miss South Carolina Anna Perry '07 played the piano — her competition talent — and Brian Zane '07, a visiting intern with the Charleston Stage, read 'Twas the Night Before Finals' before a blazing fire. But, lo and behold, last year President Reveley attended our Yule Log and even read us *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*." ~ Prior to Burnett, Celia Cohan Fenolietto '80 served as secretary under Silverman and as president from February 2007 to July 2009, garnering the chapter two more Most Outstanding

Chapter awards along the way. When a chapter earns three Most Outstanding awards in a row, they are nominated for the Premier Chapter award. Silverman had a vision for the group and got the ball rolling. When Fenolietto took over, there was momentum and she ran with it by expanding the types and number of events and outreach to students.

“Our success has rested on one word, ‘connection,’ which requires good communication and frequent events,” says Fenolietto. “We connect all area alumni, students, and their families in a warm, personal way like a big family. Many of us became friends who continue to socialize beyond chapter events.”

Fenolietto continues to work actively to ensure the College gets publicity in the local paper after events. “We bring out the alumni to join us in fun events such as an oyster roast or harbor cruise,” Fenolietto says, “but through these, we achieve serious goals such as raising money for students’ scholarships, College and Alumni Association programs, and community charities such as the Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity.”

The chapter has many enthusiastic and prominent alumni members, who graciously open their homes and businesses to fellow alumni and students, including Alumni Medallion recipient Gale Gibson Kohlhagen '69 and her husband, Steven '69, as well as Jack Hurley '72, owner of Jack's Cosmic

Dogs restaurant. Hurley even created his own Tribe T-shirt for football season. He and his wife, Priscilla, also recently hosted an Oyster Roast and concert by the Gentlemen of the College to honor current William and Mary students working with Habitat for Humanity in the Charleston region over spring break.

With over 300 alumni in the area, the chapter spans a long coastal area north and south of Charleston from Pawley's Island to Hilton Head, S.C. The chapter does not charge a membership fee, so anyone who lives in the Lowcountry and has received a degree from W&M — undergraduate or graduate — is considered a chapter member.

“Our goal is to connect W&M alumni with one another and with the College in engaging, fun and informative ways,” says the chapter Web page.



Karen Cottrell '66, M.Ed. '69, Ed.D. '84, executive vice president of the Alumni Association, presents the Premier Chapter banner. From left: Celia Cohan Fenolietto '80, Cottrell, Karen Gray Burnett '72, W&M President Taylor Reveley, Tiffany Reed Silverman '95.

For the latest chapter events and more, visit www.wmalumni.com and search for the Charleston Lowcountry Chapter homepage.

Donate by June 30 to be eligible to vote for the BOD

Have your voice heard — vote for your Alumni Board of Directors. Alumni must have donated any amount to one of the recognized funds of the College or the Alumni Association (including but not limited to the Alumni Leadership Fund, the Tribe Club or the Fund for William and Mary) within the 2009-10 fiscal year to be considered “active” and become eligible to vote. Any donations received before June 30 count toward active status for the 2010 election. Board members are also required to be active alumni. If you have any questions, please contact the executive vice president's office at 757.221.7855.

Alumni Admission Weekend, June 18-19

Preparing your son or daughter for the admission process?

Wondering how those decisions are made?

Learn more from an insider's perspective, and have the opportunity to review actual applications to William and Mary as if you were on the admission committee.

Join us on campus for Alumni Admission Weekend, June 18-19

For questions, e-mail alumni.programs@wm.edu or call 757.221.1173.

A block of rooms has been reserved for the Alumni Admission Weekend at the Williamsburg Hospitality House at the rate of \$119/night. Reservations may be made by calling the Williamsburg Hospitality House reservations desk at 800.932.9192. Deadline for hotel reservations is May 19, 2010.



TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF CELIA COHAN FENOLIETTO '80; BOTTOM PHOTO: STEPHEN SALPUKAS AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY



2010 Alumni Medallion Ceremony

Dr. John Cook, Nicholas St. George '60, B.C.L. '65, Earl "Tuggy" Young '59 and W. Samuel "Sam" Sadler '64, M.Ed. '71 at the 2010 Alumni Medallion Ceremony on Feb. 6. Cook accepted on behalf of his partner, Dr. Waverly M. Cole '50, who was awarded the Medallion posthumously. The Alumni Medallion is the highest award that can be bestowed on a graduate of the College of William and Mary and recognizes their service, commitment and dedication to the community and their *alma mater*. [See story in Winter 2009 issue or watch the award ceremony online at www.wmalumni.com/?video.]

Call for Nominations Alumni Medallion Awards

Each year, the William and Mary Alumni Association requests nominations of candidates to receive the Alumni Medallion Award. The Alumni Association Board of Directors seeks candidates who have exemplary accomplishments in their careers, have demonstrated service and leadership in community and charitable organizations, and have a distinguished level of commitment, loyalty and service on behalf of the College of William and Mary.

We ask you to help us continue to honor alumni who have a record of accomplishment and who lead extraordinary lives which bring credit, recognition and esteem to William and Mary and our alumni. Please consider your friends and associates and submit your nominations for the 2011 award by July 2010.

You may download the medallion nomination form at www.wmalumni.com/?awards or e-mail the executive vice president's office at alumni.evp@wm.edu. Please include with your nominations any news articles, vitae, biographical sketches, etc. that are available. Supporting documents are important in determining selections.