



SCAHoF Announces Recipients of 2013 Special Awards

Rhodes, Grantz & Burger to be Recognized on May 13

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Contact: Ephraim Ulmer 803/779-0905

COLUMBIA, SC – South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame president Nicky McCarter has announced that John Rhodes of Myrtle Beach, Jeff Grantz of Columbia and Ken Burger of Charleston will be honored for their various contributions to sports in the Palmetto State when the organization hosts its 53rd annual banquet and induction ceremony on May 13 at the Columbia Metro Convention Center.

Rhodes will be honored with the Willie Jeffries Ambassador Award that is sponsored by Defender Services, and Grantz will receive the second annual Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award that is being sponsored by Founders Federal Credit Union. Burger, the longtime sportswriter from Columbia and Charleston, will be bestowed with the third annual Herman Helms Media Excellence Award that is sponsored by Boyd Management of Columbia

The trio will be distinguished along with the new inductees of the SCAHoF Class of 2013 which include former baseball coach Ray Tanner and former baseball standout Hank Small from the University of South Carolina; Clemson's retired Director of Athletics Bill McLellan, quarterback Homer Jordan and "Voice of the Tigers" Jim Phillips; Furman basketball star Clyde Mayes; The Citadel fullback Travis Jervey; and legendary Bamberg-Ehrhardt High baseball coach David Horton.

Phillips and Small will be enshrined posthumously.

Tickets (table of eight for \$500) and program sponsorships may be purchased by calling the SCAHOF office at 803/779-0905. The affair, which includes a reception and dinner, begins at 5:30 p.m.

Willie Jeffries Ambassador For Sports Award

John Rhodes

A leader in sports tourism development along South Carolina's Grand Strand, John Rhodes has worked tirelessly to attract quality athletic events to the Palmetto State. Rhodes serves as executive director of the Beach Ball Classic, an organization that annually produces a prestigious holiday invitational basketball tournament for high school teams from across the United States. The Beach Ball Classic has introduced the nation to some of the game's superstar players and continues as one of the country's premier tournaments. In December 2013, the tournament will celebrate its 33rd season.

In addition to his passion for athletics, Rhodes has a strong commitment to public service and was elected mayor of Myrtle Beach in 2005. In 2009, he was re-elected for a second term. He attended the University of South Carolina (Coastal Carolina), and has owned and operated various businesses within the Myrtle Beach hospitality industry. He has served as general manager of a local major resort hotel and as assistant sales director for the Hilton Myrtle Beach. Prior to his election as mayor, he served on the Board of Directors of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel Corporation and, before the 1993 expansion, served on the Convention Center Advisory Board. He is also an active board member of the S.C. Athletic Hall of Fame.

Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award

Jeff Grantz

Jeff Grantz, who in 1988 was enshrined in the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame and in the University of South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame in 1985, is a former Gamecocks quarterback (1973-75) and shortstop/second baseman (1973-76).

Grantz has been an active member of the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame's Board of Directors and is one of the organization's "go-to" guys for nearly anything. Through his involvement as General Sales Manager/Columbia for Beverage South Columbia/Aiken, he has garnered countless donations for the Hall's many functions, including tonight's.

He was the co-captain of the 1975 squad that earned a berth in the Tangerine Bowl, the Gamecocks' lone appearance in the Orlando bowl game now known as the Capital One Bowl. Grantz was a second team AP All-American in '75 and amassed over 5,000 yards of total offense in his career. On the baseball side, he played on three NCAA Tournament teams, including the 1975 squad that advanced to the finals of the College World Series.

Herman Helms Media Excellence Award

Ken Burger

A native of Allendale, Ken Burger, who spent almost four decades writing for two South Carolina newspapers, finished dead last in his class at the University of Georgia, but still was hired by the late Doug Nye as a sports writer for *The Columbia Record* for reasons yet unexplained. When he left *The State* paper, he joined *The Post and Courier* in Charleston in 1984 and served as the Washington, D.C. correspondent for the Lowcountry paper during the mid-1980s. He later served as executive sports editor and columnist from 1988-09.

In 1996, Burger was named South Carolina's Journalist of the Year.

For more than 20 of his 37 years in the business, Burger was known for his sports columns and became one of the state's most celebrated sideline scribes. In addition to many state-wide writing awards, he was named the best in the country three times by the Associated Press. Burger also wrote a popular metro column for the Charleston paper before retiring in 2011.

So far, he has written three novels, “Swallow Savannah,” “Sister Santee,” and “Salkehatchie Soup.” He’s also published “Baptized in Sweet Tea,” a popular collection of his columns celebrating the South.

In retirement, Burger writes a regular blog on www.kenburgerblog.com, supports numerous fundraisers for prostate cancer through Roper St. Francis Healthcare, and plays golf when the temperature isn’t below his age.

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Willie Jeffries Ambassador Award

2013 – John Rhodes, Myrtle Beach
2012 – Steve Wilmot, Hilton Head Island
2011 – Ray Tanner, Columbia

Dom Fusci Leadership in Action Award

2013 – Jeff Grantz, Columbia
2012 – Ken Wheat, Columbia

Herman Helms Media Excellence Award

2013 – Ken Burger, Charleston
2012 – Bill Hamilton, Orangeburg
2011 – Ron Morris, Columbia