

Media Contact: Angela Southard Winther  
Winther Communications  
(843) 881-4824  
AWinther@winthercommunications.com

## **THE CHATTANOOGAN HOTEL HIRES NEW SALES MANAGER**

**CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.** (September 28, 2009) -- The Chattanooga, Chattanooga's AAA Four Diamond-rated upscale hotel with state-of-the-art meeting facilities, appointed Andrea Bridger as sales manager. Ms. Bridger is responsible for overseeing sales initiatives for the government and association markets, and bringing meetings and retreats, executive development meetings, planning conferences and seminars to the Benchmark Hospitality International property in downtown Chattanooga, Tenn.

Andrea Bridger has more than 11 years of sales experience in the meetings industry, most recently as an account manager with HelmsBriscoe in Chattanooga. She also spent two years as a corporate sales manager for Sheraton Read House Hotel, where she was responsible for managing new and existing accounts.

Ms. Bridger worked for five years as a marketing special projects manager with Tandus, a floorcovering manufacturer in Dalton, Ga. Prior to this, she was an account executive with Liaisons Corporate Planning Services in Chattanooga. Bridger also worked for five years in the insurance industry.

Andrea Bridger is a graduate of Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration/Hospitality Business. She and her husband live in Chattanooga.

The Chattanooga, a 210,000 square-foot five-story upscale urban resort with 198 guest rooms and suites, has three outstanding restaurants, a pampering day spa and state-of-the-art meeting facilities. The hotel's 25,000 square-foot conference center features a high-tech learning environment with comprehensive meeting planning and audiovisual support services. The facility includes 20 dedicated meeting rooms with five general session rooms accommodating 25 to 100

guests; a 16-seat circular board room with a flat data screen; 12 break-out rooms; a 7,500 square-foot ballroom; and an amphitheater with seating for 85. All meeting rooms offer complete networking capabilities and high-speed Internet access.

The Chattanooga is conveniently located within a two-hour drive from Atlanta; Nashville, Tenn.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Huntsville, Ala.; and Birmingham, Ala. It is within walking distance of the city's museums, galleries, retail stores, restaurants and The Tennessee Aquarium.

The Chattanooga is managed by Benchmark Hospitality International, 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 Hospitality is a worldwide organization operating properties in 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, Japan, and Santiago, Chile. For the location of Benchmark's properties and additional information, visit [www.benchmarkhospitality.com](http://www.benchmarkhospitality.com).

###