Professor Ira Shapiro retires after 40 years at Temple

For four decades, Dr. Ira G. Shapiro has served the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management (STHM) as a professor, administrator, recruiter, mentor and friend. He retired on June 30, 2010, but his legacy will live on, especially in STHM—a school he helped develop from the ground up.

With Temple since 1970, Shapiro became STHM chairman in 1998 when the school was founded. From 2006 to 2009, he served as director of STHM’s sport and recreation management program.

In 2007, Shapiro earned what he called his “fondest memory”—the Stauffer Award, Temple’s highest honor for distinguished faculty service beyond the classroom.

Rachel Wolkiewicz, a former student of his, said Shapiro is “inspirational.” But, even with Shapiro’s endless contributions as a professor and an administrator, his jovial company is what many may miss most.

Ted Tedrick, leisure and aging expert, retires after 23 years

School of Tourism and Hospitality Management professor Dr. Ted Tedrick, who maintained “a genuine care” for students and focused his research on leisure and aging, retired in May 2010 after 23 years with the school.

“I’ll miss the students here,” Tedrick said. “Helping them with concepts like statistics, seeing some of the good work they produce and following them out on their internships in their field.”

Tedrick, who taught classes in diversity issues, leisure and aging, and research methods, isn’t “giving up” on academics. Although he would like to travel more, Tedrick said he might return to teach part-time after about a year of retirement. “It creates an environment where students aren’t intimidated to ask questions or approach him,” said Kirsten Grandshaw, a tourism and recreation management major. “He is the most positive person I’ve ever met.”

Prior to teaching at Temple, Tedrick worked at the State University of New York-Brockport. He earned his bachelor’s from Kent State University, master’s from Penn State University and PhD from the University of Maryland.

“I’ve had a pretty good run here at Temple,” Tedrick said. “But it’s time to relax and enjoy retirement.” —Jennifer Rueda

Fesenmaier wins research award

As Dr. Daniel R. Fesenmaier worked toward his PhD at the University of Western Ontario, his advisor asked him repeatedly: How have you expanded the frontiers of knowledge?

Some 30 years later, Fesenmaier is an internationally recognized scholar and recipient of the 2010 Temple University Faculty Research Award. Fesenmaier has authored more than 150 refereed articles in top journals, 120 book chapters and conference proceedings, and edited 10 books, monographs and proceedings. He has served as a principal investigator on more than 100 funded projects totaling $7 million and leads national research on technology’s effects on travel.

He also received the University of Delaware’s 2010 Michael D. Olsen Research Achievement Award and STHM’s Outstanding Research Award. Fesenmaier was recently named a fellow of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism.

—Brandon Lausch

Debra Blair uses tools of the trade

Dr. Debra Blair never leaves home without her diversity toolbox—a sledgehammer to break down barriers, plaster to build strong new walls and fresh paint to cover prejudice.

Blair has been using these metaphorical tools to share her passion for human rights with students, colleagues and executives for more than 30 years.

“We’re in an industry that’s all about people of different backgrounds, co-workers and consumers,” she said. “You have to learn to work with everyone, and it’s an enormous responsibility.”

At STHM, Blair has been instrumental in developing cutting-edge courses—such as Leisure and Tourism in a Diverse Society—and has connected STHM to important partners, including the Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus.

She also leads a diversity-training program to encourage acceptance and connections to the LGBT community. —Julie Achilles

Two premier faculty join STHM

A world leader in consumer behavior research for sport and related industry sectors, Dr. Daniel Funk joins STHM—with a joint appointment in Temple’s Fox School of Business—from Griffith University in Australia.

With expertise ranging from sport television media to sport motivations, Funk has completed nearly 25 grant-funded studies and is a chief investigator on two Australian government research projects totaling $1.16 million.

Funk, the author of three books, has written or contributed to more than 60 scholarly articles, with subjects ranging from a case study of the 2008 Beijing Olympics to an examination of gender differences among NCAA basketball spectators.

He is a professor with tenure.

Dr. Joris Drayer, an assistant professor of sport and recreation management, has joined STHM from the University of Memphis.

Drayer gained first-hand sport management knowledge with the Oakland Athletics, where he served as a marketing and promotions assistant and a baseball operations assistant.

The author of two book chapters and more than 15 articles, Drayer has a variety of research in progress, including a case study of the secondary market for NFL tickets on StubHub. His primary areas of research are primary and secondary ticket markets, as well as fantasy sports participation.

—Staff report

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