Not too long ago, Tyrone Holt was sitting in a classroom at Temple, finishing his degree in sport and recreation management. Today, Holt is winning and dining clients as an account executive for the Philadelphia 76ers—and he considers the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management (STHM) his ticket to success.

Holt first attended Millersville University on a football scholarship before transferring to Temple and finding a home in the sport and recreation management field. At STHM, he joined the Sport and Recreation Professionals Association, as well as the school’s chapter of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality.

“I was able to take what I learned in class and expand upon it. There’s a lot more going on in the world than just at Temple, and these resources teach you how to do everything on your own—how to network, schedule timelines,” said Holt, a May 2010 graduate. “It’s added responsibility that you take upon yourself instead of waiting for someone else to come to you.”

Holt built a relationship with Assistant Dean Jeffrey Montague and Rick Ridall, director of STHM’s Center for Student Professional Development, to examine opportunities that would put Holt ahead of his competition.

During his junior year, Holt interned with Woods Services, a residential, educational and vocational support program for people with special needs. By senior year, he landed a dream internship with Comcast-Spectacor, working in advertising and sales for the 76ers and Flyers. Holt’s professionalism helped turn the experience into a full-time job.

Holt is also pursuing law school, and he recently partnered with former Temple classmate Dominique Wilkins to potentially launch Konnoisseur Creative Group, a marketing, management and media company.

“I feel like being a graduate of STHM made us want to be initiators and innovators, to build something as our own,” he said. “STHM doesn’t just produce graduates who want to work for someone else. We want to leave our own stamp.”

—Julie Achilles