Greetings From the Associate Dean

“Don’t underestimate luck.”
Those are the words of wisdom — and the professional mission — of Steve Korman. An industry pioneer who has spent more than half a century changing the way we think about real estate, Steve is more than a close friend to me. He’s also a friend to the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

More than two years ago, Steve formed an inextricable bond with STHM when he pledged a quarter-million dollars to fund scholarships for nearly two-dozen of our students, who have come to be known around Speakman Hall as the Korman Scholars.

On the night of Nov. 14, 2012, when Steve announced his generous gift, some might have said that those students were lucky — and that assessment would have been accurate. As the Founder of Korman Communities, Inc., Steve can attest that luck sometimes makes the difference between a good business deal and a bad one. However, Steve also would be the first to say that each of the Korman Scholars earned his or her scholarship through academic merit, leadership professionalism and experiential learning.

It has been another exciting year around STHM, for more than just our Korman Scholars. Our honors-student intake tripled, leaping to 15 for this academic year’s class. We welcomed two tenure-track faculty, in Dr. Christopher T. Lee and Dr. Luorong (Laurie) Wu. We appointed new program directors, Dr. Wesley Roehl, for Tourism and Hospitality Management, and Joseph E. Mahan, for Sport and Recreation Management, and awarded more than a half million dollars in endowed scholarships and tuition, merit-based remission.

And, as you’ll read in the pages of this edition of Connections, two of our programs were recognized as the best of their kind — one nationally, and another globally.

It is evident that STHM continues to gain national and international recognition. And doing so requires more than just luck.

Regards,

Elizabeth H. Barber, PhD, CHE
Associate Dean
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