The end of an era

The end of the 2015-16 academic year closed out Barber’s tenure as Associate Dean, a term that has spanned the 18-year existence of STHM. Two months earlier, Montague retired as the school’s Associate Vice Dean, the latest in a series of titles and roles he’s held since STHM’s beginnings.

In a way, it’s fitting that Barber and Montague simultaneously stepped away from their roles at STHM. Together, they built the school into a regional powerhouse, and a nationally and internationally recognized brand.

Barber will transition from Associate Dean into a position that allows her to retain and strengthen current industry partnerships while cultivating new ones, and returning to one of her passions — teaching in the classroom.

Montague, who retired in March as STHM’s Associate Vice Dean, will stay on as an adjunct faculty member of the Senior Seminar capstone he founded.

“We’re stepping away at the right time,” Montague said. “It’s an opportunity for the school, our programs, our faculty, and our staff to grow in a different direction. Think about it this way: We have our fingerprints on everything here. In a way, that’s a pretty special thing. “But now, it’s time to give someone else the keys to the car.”

Betsy and Jeffrey helped develop Temple into the top tourism player in Philadelphia. The STHM name is synonymous with big events and the support of the Philadelphia region’s tourism initiatives and, as a result, they’re recognized as an educational resource for the industry.”

Bill Mifflin, M.Ed in Recreation Administration ’86
Retired executive director, Philadelphia Hospitality, Inc.

“I was more of a quiet student who would come to (Barber’s) class. . . . She specifically placed me with one group because she knew I was a leader, and it was proven by the outcome of our task and my control in standing up and taking the initiative. I have never forgotten that experience, and I am confident in saying that it has helped me so many times with my career.

“I would not be who I am today without Dean Barber and Dean Montague, and STHM will not be the same without them.”

Nick Pytel, BS in Tourism and Hospitality Management ’01
Associate director of business development, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society