STHM alumnus endows scholarship for working students

Mike Marion, BS '02, along with his wife Sheri, have pledged $25,000 to establish an endowed scholarship at STHM for a working student with financial need. The scholarship will be awarded beginning in 2020.

The pledge will be matched by an additional $25,000 from STHM.

Marion, a Philadelphia native, enrolled at Temple in 1971 as a student within the School of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (HPERD). Some of its programs are housed today within STHM. He withdrew from school in 1978 to begin working full time.

“It was a career decision on my part,” Marion said. He returned to Temple in the late nineties while serving as the president of a local wholesale food and beverage distribution company, catering to the hospitality industry. This is when he was first introduced to STHM. With 144 credits, he graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management.

This realization stirred his interest in creating a scholarship that would support a working student, so he or she would no longer need to balance work and study. The student must be a sophomore at STHM, so he or she would better know the route within the school that he or she plans to take.

Marion, who is a member of Arizona’s Temple University Alumni Chapter, now works as the controller for The Magazine Lady Incorporated, which provides magazine subscriptions to various clients, including major hotels throughout the United States.

“For us, it is worthwhile to give back,” Marion said. “It completes the circle that we are also giving back to the tourism and hospitality industry.”

–Emily Scott

STHM receives $300,000 in scholarships from J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation

Twenty students from Temple University’s School of Tourism and Hospitality Management (STHM) will receive scholarships from funding granted by the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation.

STHM submitted a scholarship proposal to the Foundation, which recently awarded $300,000 to create Marriott Scholars.

The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation scholarships will benefit academically qualified, underrepresented students at STHM who are pursuing careers in the tourism and hospitality management industries. STHM Associate Dean Dr. Elizabeth H. Barber said the school will award $15,000 to each of its 20 scholarship recipients, to be dispersed evenly across their sophomore, junior, and senior years.

“When students enter college, they often do so with scholarship money from their high schools, local communities, or extra-curricular activities, but those usually expire following freshman year, resulting in greater out-of-pocket expenses,” said Barber. “This scholarship will help us recruit and retain talented students at the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management and, hopefully, to keep them from having to make difficult financial decisions about their futures.”

As an added benefit to the scholarship, Barber said each student will have a Marriott Mentor — senior executives from Philadelphia Marriott brand hotels have volunteered, These mentors will give the students someone they can lean on for career counseling, professional development, and industry leadership.

“We extend our thanks to the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation and to foundation trustee J.W. Marriott, Jr.,” Barber said. “Without their support, these exclusive mentorship opportunities and the establishment of these scholarships would not be possible.”

–Christopher A. Vito