Greetings From the Associate Dean

Thanks to dedicated faculty members and ambitious students, the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management continues to receive exceptional recognition.

After studying STHM’s curriculum and carefully comparing it with other hospitality programs, Create a Career added STHM’s bachelor’s degree program to its list of the 25 Best Hospitality Programs.

STHM was also recognized by the Stars of the Industry Awards program; our American Hotel & Lodging Association chapter was named Student Chapter of the Year, beating out 16 other colleges and universities—read more about it in the Student Showcase section on page 6.

In spring 2014, students at STHM set a new record for the largest number of senior internships in the school’s history, a total of 120 seniors scattered throughout a wide variety of tourism, hospitality, sport and recreation organizations.

There have also been exciting developments in STHM’s curricula. The school has added a new MS in sport business, redesigned its master of tourism and hospitality management, and created one of the nation’s first executive MBA programs that offers the opportunity to specialize in hospitality asset management. Read all about this new programming in the Faculty and Curriculum Focus section on page 12.

In keeping up with these changes and awards, we added six new full-time members to the STHM faculty for the 2013–2014 academic year. All of our new members bring their own set of skills and academic training to their respective research and teaching, no doubt adding to our growing reputation.

Although Ira Shapiro, professor emeritus and former chairperson of sport and recreation management, officially retired in 2010, he continued to teach at STHM on a part-time basis and remained a tremendous educator and mentor for countless students. As a way of honoring his devotion, STHM formed a committee to create the Ira G. Shapiro Scholarship Fund. This spring the committee reached its $25,000 fundraising goal, and STHM will now match those donations to meet the $50,000 necessary for a scholarship to be endowed. Ira and his wife, Sheila, officially moved to Miami in May; if you’re ever in the area, look him up.

With our new incoming classes holding an average GPA just shy of 3.5, it is evident that STHM will continue to flourish and gain further national and global recognition.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Connections.

Elizabeth H. Barber, PhD, CHE
Associate Dean