



UPCOMING EVENTS

RCS
Alumni Day
September 24

**Advisory Board
Meeting**
September 25

Welcome New Board Members

We are very pleased to welcome two new members to the RHTM Advisory Board. Jill Thompson is Executive Director of the Knoxville Tourism Alliance. Robert Gibbs is Director of Conferences-Continuing Education, University of Tennessee.

RHTM Fall Advisory Board Meeting

The Fall 2009 RHTM Advisory Board Meeting will be held at the UT Visitor's Center on Neyland Drive on Friday, September 25. The meeting will begin with lunch at noon.

RCS Alumni Day

The Retail & Consumer Sciences program is planning an Alumni Day on September 24, 2009 from 9:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Select graduates of UT and our program with careers in buying, management, allocation, planning, sales, and small business ownership will come back to campus to speak to our current students. They will give an overview of their positions in the retail industry and how they have achieved their career success. The goal is for our current students to gain knowledge about the industry as they make decisions about their future careers.

Currently, the following UT alumni are scheduled to take part in this event:

Stephanie Turner and Michelle Hodges Vickers, Kroger; Don Frieson, Ashley Harris, Kelli Stark Cranford, Bridget Sommer, and Bailey Gibson, Wal-Mart; Blaine Anderson, Shannon Dickey, and Tonya Long, Target; Jessica Hammonds, Organicism. Walgreens also has agreed to send several graduates.

Honors and Awards

John Antun was named the 2009 Tennessee Hospitality Educator of the Year by the Tennessee Hospitality Association at the association's annual awards luncheon held in Nashville earlier this month.

Retail Faculty Awarded Federal Grant

Youn-Kyung Kim, Ann Fairhurst, and Rod Runyan received a two-year grant of \$93,070 from the U.S. Department of Education for the project, *International Retail Management: Curriculum and Instructional Module Development*.

The project will develop curriculum and instructional modules on international retail management (IRM) for both students and retail practitioners. Our RCS faculty and the National Retail Federation (NRF) jointly will serve as the primary project group for this international education project. The project will focus on countries in Latin America.

The project will consist of multiple stages—Competency Profiling, Competency Validation for the Curriculum, Curriculum Development, Instructional Module Design, and Dissemination. Both qualitative and quantitative data will be used in the project. The resulting instructional modules will be used to prepare students who will enter the international retail industry and provide managerial education to retail firms engaged in international market entry and expansion into Latin America.

Projects/Activities

John Antun has had the article, "Like it, Learn it, Use it? A Field Study," published in *Cornell Hospitality Quarterly*.

Steve Morse attended the Data Users Conference sponsored by Smith Travel Research in Nashville, August 4-5.

Steve Morse and John Antun recruited students and industry support at the Tennessee Hospitality Association Conference in Nashville, August 12-13.

Steve Morse gave a presentation on transient, group and business travel trends to the Tennessee Meeting Professionals in Knoxville, August 25.