

The next chapter

BY ADRIENNE FRANK

In classrooms across campus, they've left their mark. For more than 30 years each, five of AU's professors have helped shape generations of young minds by encouraging their curiosity, sharpening their intellect, and applauding their aspirations. And while such work is never finished, this year's retiring faculty are ready to satisfy their own curiosity about the next stage in their lives.

They agree, leaving isn't easy. But, says, Bernard Ross, SPA, public administration, "it's a little easier to leave knowing you've made a difference."

This year's retiring faculty include Valerie French, CAS, history, and Burton Slotnick, CAS, psychology, who left AU in 2004 in order to teach at the University of South Florida. According to Anthony Riley, chair of the psychology department, Slotnick "exemplified scholarship" and established himself as an authority in the field. "Both nationally and internationally, [he is] viewed as one of the best," says Riley.

The three other professors who are retiring this spring shared their future plans with *American Weekly*.

Gary Bulmash Kogod, Accounting

During his 30 years at AU, Gary Bulmash says he's made a lot of friends. "My colleagues, my students, they've all been great," he says. "I will definitely miss the people I've met here." Bulmash taught financial accounting, auditing, and cost and income tax. In addition to serving as

faculty advisor for Beta Gamma Sigma, the business management society, he's also been Kogod's faculty marshal for graduation for the last 25 years.

Fondest Memory: During freshman orientation week in June 1980, Bulmash, then chair of the accounting department, sat next to a young woman in the lunchroom. "I asked her if she was a freshman. She said no, that her brother was. We had a nice chat, then I left," says Bulmash. In September, the woman began working in an administrative position at Kogod, so that she could pursue her master's degree. The two began dating and married the next summer. Two years later, Bulmash was back at orientation. He sat down next to another young woman in the lunchroom. "I asked her if she was a freshman. She said, no that her brother was. And I said, 'You know, the last time I was in this situation, I married the girl!'"

Best Part of the Job: Bulmash says he enjoyed preparing students for the "real-life challenges" they would face in the business world. "Sometimes, you say something in class which you



Glenn Harnden

think is innocuous, and years later, some student tells you it made a great impression on them."

Future Plans: "I'm not hanging up the gloves yet," says Bulmash, who will be teaching accounting at the University of Maryland. "I got my degrees at Maryland, so, in a sense, I'm going back home," he says. "It's funny, I'm leaving a place where I know a lot of students to be the new kid on the block!"

Lasting Impact: "One would be hard pressed to find another faculty member in the Kogod School of Business who has taught as many courses as Gary Bulmash on such diverse subjects at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and has done so with such consistent high quality," says acting Kogod Dean William DeLone.

Glenn Harnden SOC

Harnden, associate dean and visual media professor, has called AU home for 36 years. An independent producer, director, and documentary and educational film writer, Harnden says

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he's "been fortunate enough to work with people who are not just colleagues, but friends."

Fondest Memory: Harnden says his "most precious memories" are of students' film projects. "We'd have graduate students doing thesis work, and they would screen a project that was just completely original, powerful, funny, moving, and beautifully executed. They had learned to tell a story through film. Those are the memories I hold closest."

Best Part of the Job: "I've been fortunate to work with two really class-act deans, Sandy Unger and Larry Kirkman," says Harnden. "From them, I learned that administration is a delicate balance of a lot of things. You have to have high standards and disci-

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pline, but you also have to have understanding and respect." Harnden says he's also learned from his students, who have taught him, "how to appreciate a lot of different kinds of people."

Future Plans: "I've not updated my resume. I'm not looking for another job," says Harnden. Instead, Harnden is following the example of his 3-year-old grandson. "He's teaching me to go out and play." And while he looks forward to days spent gardening, barbecuing, traveling, riding bikes, and playing guitar, Harnden says he's most excited to spend quality time with his wife.

Lasting Impact: For the last 20 years, Harnden has been "the glue holding the School of Communication together," according to Dean Larry Kirkman. "Today we take it for granted that SOC faculty tap into all the resources that Washington offers, but Glenn raised those expectations. He set the standard for experimental and collaborative learning. He showed that critical thinking and analytical skills can be developed in real-world media productions where students learn by doing."

Bernard Ross

SPA, Public Administration

With very few exceptions, Bernie Ross says he's gotten up every morning for the last 38 years and wanted to come to work. "Not many people can say that," he says with a laugh. Ross, whose interests include urban management, city politics, and regional affairs, served as chair of the depart-

ment of public administration for 14 years.

Fondest Memory: In the early '90s, the public administration program was named among the top 10 in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. "That was something we had been working toward for a good 15 years," says Ross. "After that, the faculty got a different level of respect, both on campus and within their organizations."

Best Part of the Job: Ross says he enjoyed building relationships with students. "As a faculty, we needed to understand that the students were our most important asset. And by making ourselves readily available to them, we could, in fact, put ourselves ahead of other schools."

Future Plans: For two years, Ross has hosted a discussion group for seniors at a community center in Rockville, Md. He says he looks forward to working more with the group of about 30 seniors, who gather to discuss current events. "I watched my mother go into her 90s still yelling at the TV newscasters," Ross says with a laugh. "These people are the same way. They love to share their opinions." Ross also hosts a similar discussion group for young people.

Lasting Impact: According to SPA Dean William LeoGrande, Ross's leadership has left an extraordinary mark on the school. "Bernie Ross was one of a small cohort of key faculty that joined the public administration program in the 1960s and 1970s, and transformed it into one of the leading programs in the nation."