

Dr. Mort Tenzer Visits Department of Public Policy



Dr. Mort Tenzer

On the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the MPA program, DPP hosted a luncheon on November 10, 2008 for Professor Mort Tenzer with faculty, staff, and a handful of students. Dr. Tenzer shared some wonderful history about UConn and how the MPA program came to be.

For twenty five years, Professor Tenzer had a great impact on the UConn community. In 1968, Professor Tenzer began his career at the University of Connecticut as Associate Director of the Institute of Urban Research and later went on to become the Institute's director. Through his leadership, Dr. Tenzer was instrumental in establishing the MPA Program in 1973.

DPP Department Head Amy Donahue shared with Dr. Tenzer what the program has developed into today, and thanked him for his part in making it possible. Internships were a key part of Dr. Tenzer's visionary ideas for the MPA program. An internship component is now an integral part of the MPA core curriculum. Dr. Tenzer hailed the Internship and Professional Practice (IPP) program as a "wonderful" opportunity for students.

Every member of the faculty and staff wanted to honor Professor Tenzer in a meaningful way, and made individual donations to the Morton J. Tenzer Fellowship Fund that totaled over \$500.

The Morton J. Tenzer Fellowship Fund was established in 1993, the year that Professor Tenzer retired from the University of Connecticut. Faculty at the Institute of Public and Urban Affairs organized the effort to honor Mort's many contributions to the field and to the University. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide merit based financial support for an incoming graduate student(s) enrolled in the MPA program.



Dr. Mort Tenzer speaking with DPP students

Dr. Tenzer went beyond academe to become an important figure in state and local government and contributes his services to various organizations in many different capacities. Included in his association membership is his 24 year service in the American Association of University Professors. He held several leadership positions within AAUP, not only at UConn, but also within the state and national AAUP organizations.

The Department is fortunate to have benefitted from Professor Tenzer's foresight and tenacity, and grateful to have the Tenzer Fellowship Fund to honor his legacy.