Lindback Awards - Dr. John A. Sorrentino

Perhaps it’s the buy-and-sell and firm- strategy games economics professor John Sorrentino includes in his lectures, or the focus on incorporating the latest technologies into his class. Whatever it is, Dr. Sorrentino has won the praise of his students and colleagues.

And now, he has won the Lindback Award.

“It’s a great feeling,” said Sorrentino, who has been at Temple since 1973.

Sorrentino teaches a variety of online and traditional classes at both the graduate and undergraduate level, including economics, management and information sciences.

“There’s a great bit of freedom at Temple and I’ve always appreciated that,” explained Sorrentino, who noted that he was one of the first professors to teach an online class and to incorporate computers into his classroom.

He also is a big proponent of distance education and believes that online classes will become even more popular.

“Online seems to expand the options we give people,” said Sorrentino. “I don’t think it will ever replace traditional classes, but it enables life-long learning.”

Sorrentino also is recognized for his leadership in the field of environmental and energy economics, which examines the relationship of the environment to profits and losses in the traditional sense.

“In the past, most economists treated the environment as a resource to exploit,” Sorrentino said. “We now look at what our activity does to the land, water, air and indigenous peoples.”

Part of the reason Sorrentino, a Brooklyn native, has remained at Temple is his shared belief with founder Russell Conwell that everybody is entitled to an affordable, high-quality education.

“I’m strongly driven to help Temple’s typical student,” said Sorrentino.

It’s Sorrentino’s accessibility and innovativeness that have generated admiration among his students and peers.

“Dr. Sorrentino is widely acclaimed by his students as being instrumental to their lives and careers,” said one faculty member. “Preparing himself through ongoing professional activities and a vast array of technological innovations, he has brought to the classroom state-of-the-art knowledge and an unyielding enthusiasm for learning.”

“Perhaps the biggest compliment I can pay to John is that I modeled my teaching style after his,” added a former student, turned economics professor and business school dean. “His impact on me as a professional economist, teacher and person has been profound.”