

## **Jeffrey Scott Arpan (1947-2005)**

### **A Memorial by David L. Gray**

Jeffrey Scott Arpan, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Business, University of South Carolina Business School, died today (May 28) after a brief illness. Professor Arpan headed the Business School's International Business program for many years and under his leadership the program was ranked number 1 by US News and World Report.

He was instrumental in developing a strong working relationship between the Business School and major corporations throughout the U.S., and was active in executive development programs for companies such as IBM, Verizon, Westinghouse, Eastman Chemical, Sonoco and Xerox. In 1999 he was awarded USC's Outstanding Teacher Award for Executive Education. He was also a Fellow and previous President of the Academy of International Business, the professional organization of international business professors. Together with his wife, Luz Rodriguez Arpan, he founded Hispanic Connections, a small business which provides a variety of services to connect and integrate Hispanic and other business communities.

At age 24 Professor Arpan was the youngest person to receive a doctoral degree in international business from Indiana University, and his dissertation was selected by the Academy of International Business as the best international business dissertation completed in 1971. In 1976, he was selected as one of the "Outstanding Young Men in America"; in 2001 was named one of the "Ten Southerners to Watch in Globalization" by the Southern Growth Policies Board; and in 2002 was selected as the Community Ambassador of the Year for 2002 by the Board of Directors of International Friendship Ministries.

For more than a quarter of a century, Professor Arpan researched and presented international business topics in over a dozen countries on five continents. His primary research interests were the global competitiveness of industries, the impact of culture on business practices, the relationship between international business and the ecological environment, and international business education. He authored more than a half dozen books and fifty articles on these and other areas of international business.

In 2001 Professor Arpan was diagnosed with Semantic Dementia, a progressive and debilitating disease affecting speech and the ability to communicate. By 2003 the progress of the disease required him to retire. He devoted much of his time in retirement to education of others about the disease and to research being conducted on the illness, including participation in a long term study being conducted by the Memory and Aging Center of the University of California at San Francisco.

Professor Arpan was the middle child born to parents Eleanor Holly Holferty and Floyd Gordon Arpan. Professor Arpan is survived by his wife Luz Rodriguez Arpan (or as he called her, “la Luz de mi vida”), his step-son Alejandro Penaranda Arpan, his three daughters, Laura Arpan, Amy Arpan, and Piper Arpan, his granddaughter Reed Ralstin, his sister Cheryl Sorokin, his brother Randy Arpan, and his nephews Nathan Arpan, Justin Arpan, Jordan Arpan and David Knowles.

Dean Joel Smith, Moore School of Business, has established the Jeffery S. Arpan Fellowship. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide financial support for graduate students in international business. MSB will provide matching funds for donations.

