

Stephen Shellman
March 20, 2008

I write this statement to express sincere regret for the pain this incident has caused my family, my colleagues and in particular my students -- both those immediately affected and those indirectly affected. I am very sorry I cannot continue teaching, mentoring, and collaborating with the many students with whom I work here at UGA. I take full responsibility for my actions, seek to learn from my mistakes, and change my life for the better.

I also write to set the record straight on the incidents which led to my resignation from the University of Georgia. In June of 2007, several colleagues and students [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Towards the end of the night, a student and I went to get a sandwich and ended up back at the hotel where we were staying for a conference. We were sitting on the bed and began to have a deep conversation about her personal life and family. The narrative turned melancholy quickly and she began crying. I gave her a hug and tried to comfort her. She was sad and generally not in good shape. I did not want to leave her in such an emotional state. She ended up getting into bed and I went over and put my arms around her to comfort her. It got awkward. I commented that "I hoped this is not awkward tomorrow," and left. There were no other awkward moments between us after that night. We continued to work amicably and professionally together on research projects, conference presentations, and journal articles.

On February 12, 2008, I met up with a group of colleagues, friends, and students at a local Athens bar. I already had been drinking and we continued drinking heavily at several bars. The next thing I remember clearly was walking home and talking to a male graduate student who eventually found me and took me home. Ashamedly, I had blacked out and could not remember hours of my evening. On February 13, I found a student's ID in my wallet [REDACTED]. I wanted to return it immediately. I texted her to try and find a way to return it and apologize for having it. On February 14, the aforementioned graduate student told me what had occurred two nights prior. I could not believe the story and was in shock. I remember falling to my knees several times as he recounted the events. I cried and I immediately phoned my wife to tell her the events related to me by my graduate student. To this day, the events of the evening are quite sketchy due to my alcohol blackout, a fact about which I am deeply disturbed.

I reiterate how seriously I take these incidents. I recognize my alcohol problem and appreciate these events as a wake-up call and a life-changing experience. Indeed, my family, the students most affected (as reported in my file), and I all feel that I have an alcohol addiction. Accordingly, I am receiving professional, therapeutic help for the alcohol problem. Drinking has caused me to act out of character and to negatively affect many people's lives. For this, I am truly sorry. I am in counseling and to date I have not had a drink in 38 days. I am thankful for my loving wife, beautiful daughter, extended family, close friends, and colleagues for loving and supporting me through this tough period. In time, I am confident I will emerge a changed and better man.



The University of Georgia

School of Public and International Affairs
Office of the Dean

March 17, 2008

Professor Howard J. Wiarda
Head, Department of International Affairs
The University of Georgia
Candler Hall
CAMPUS

Dear Howard:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and the faculty of the Department of International Affairs that Professor Stephen M. Shellman has tendered his resignation as a faculty member at the University of Georgia, effective the end of the 2008 spring semester. He is relieved of his responsibilities for teaching or otherwise supervising the work of students, effective immediately. He will continue his work on research projects through the end of the spring semester from his home office.

As you know, I made this announcement at the School of Public and International Affairs faculty meeting on March 7, 2008. You may share a copy of this letter with colleagues who were not in attendance at that meeting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Lauth
Dean

Stephen M. Shellman
325 Carrington Dr
Athens, GA 30605

March 7, 2008

Thomas Lauth
Dean
School of Public & International Affairs
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dean Lauth,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that I am resigning from the University of Georgia effective April 28, 2008. As of March 7, 2008, I wish to be relieved of all my teaching duties. I will have no contact with students at the University and will take the time from now until April 29, 2008 to continue to fulfill my obligations on my grants and external contracts. Given the specialized nature of the deliverables, I will work through the University system to move my external grants and contracts to alternative institutions or businesses where the work can be completed under my direction.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Shellman



The University of Georgia

Office of Legal Affairs

March 7, 2008

Dr. Stephen M. Shellman
Assistant Professor
International Affairs
202 Herty Drive CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Shellman:

I have completed my investigation of allegations that you engaged in behavior in violation of the University's Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy (NDAH Policy). My investigation of this matter involved interviews with [REDACTED], Bryan Early, Dr. Mia Blume, Dr. Christopher Allen and you.

Based upon my investigation of this matter, I have determined that you did engage in a violation of the NDAH policy. These were serious violations. Given the fact that you have submitted your resignation you will comply with the following:

- Your department head will immediately remove you and appoint new instructors of record for all courses you teach this semester;
- you will not consume alcoholic beverages with any students anywhere while you are employed by the University of Georgia;
- you will continue the counseling you have indicated you have undertaken and have your provider inform your Department Head monthly beginning April 1, 2008 that you are complying with the recommendations for improvement;
- you will immediately vacate your office with your personal belongings and do any work required from your home;
- you will cooperate with all efforts necessary to resolve the continuing work under any grants or contracts in which you are presently committed that include any interest of the University of Georgia.

Any violation of these conditions will result in additional corrective action up to and including immediate termination.

Dr. Stephen M. Shewmaker

March 7, 2008

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It is a violation of the NDAH Policy to retaliate against any person who has participated in the investigation of this matter. If I determine that you have attempted to retaliate against and/or harass or intimidate any person you believe participated in the investigation of this matter, this office will take immediate action against you. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at (706) 542-0006.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Shewmaker
Executive Director for Legal Affairs

SMS:llb

cc: Michael F. Adams, President
Arnett C. Mace, Jr., Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Thomas P. Lauth, Dean, School of Public and International Affairs