

MICHAEL SANDERS *destined to teach*



If there's one thing Michael Sanders is sure of, it's that money isn't everything.

As a young man, Sanders quit his job as a math teacher to enter the lucrative

field of hotel management. But his high-profile position and equally high salary weren't enough to shake the knowledge that teaching was his true calling. So after nearly three decades at the top of his field, he returned to the classroom. Today, Sanders, *CLA '65*, instructs students with unique learning styles, such as those with ADHD and dyslexia.

Although Sanders enjoyed math from a young age, his first love was baseball. As an eighth grader, the New Jersey native pitched for his high school's varsity baseball squad. And though he was offered a contract out of high school with the Washington Senators (now the Texas Rangers), his parents urged him to attend college.

Sanders headed across the river to Temple, where he double-majored in psychology and math. A thrown-out shoulder during his sophomore year dashed his baseball dreams, but after an internship with Walt Disney in California, Sanders remained excited about his teaching career.

After graduation, he landed a job as a middle-school math teacher in New Jersey, where he stayed for four years before teaching high school math at Blair Academy in Blairstown, N.J. As is the case now, teachers' salaries were less than ideal, and after two years, Sanders knew he needed a raise. "As much as I loved teaching," he says, "I had to leave because of finances."

Sanders reached out to a contact in Atlantic City, who quickly put him in the management track at his hotel. He worked his way up the ladder and soon became the vice president for Holiday Inns in the Chicago area, where he oversaw 106 hotels. Along the way, Sanders earned his doctorate in education at Ohio Christian University.

He was recruited for the position of senior vice president of Shoney's hotel division in 1997. But something didn't feel quite right. "I had

spent 30 years in the hotel business," Sanders recounts. "The money was great, but I took an early retirement after five years with Shoney's so that I could go back to teaching math, which is what I really loved."

In 2002, Sanders started as a teacher at Currey Ingram Academy, a college-preparatory school in Brentwood, Tenn. for students with learning differences. "I'm really enjoying the fact that I'm making a difference in these kids' lives," Sanders says, adding that the school provides an excellent learning environment for students who might get picked on in the public school system. "It's a pleasure to see the kids happy and secure and being themselves."

While he initially thought he'd like to go into educational administration, Sanders says he now realizes that he was meant to teach. "I went in a full circle. I came from teaching and returned to it," he says. "I've been offered jobs as an administrator, and I did run the summer school here at Currey Ingram once, but I just didn't enjoy it as much as teaching.

"I just love my job," he says.

— ALIX GERZ

She is known for her research in mammalian developmental genetics and was a member of the National Research Council's committee that set the blueprint for the U.S. effort in the Human Genome Project.

JULIE C. VAN CAMP, *CLA '75, CLA '82*, professor of philosophy at California State University, Long Beach, has published *Applying Ethics: A Text with Readings, 9th Edition*, which includes a new chapter on computer ethics and the Internet, and several articles and selections from Aristotle and Kant.

FREDERICK E. WILSON JR., *EDU '75*, vice president for Education Affiliates, Inc. in Baltimore, was appointed to a three-year term on the Pennsylvania State Board of Private Licensed Schools by Pennsylvania's Secretary of Education. He lives in Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

CAROL GOULD, *CLA '76*, was jointly commissioned by Social Affairs Unit Publishing UK/Encounter Books USA to write a book about anti-Americanism in Britain and Europe. The book is provisionally titled *Don't Tread on Me* and will be released in the U.S. next August. She has lived in London for 32 years.

NANCY J. MCGINLEY, *EDU '76, EDU '81, EDU '90*, has been appointed superintendent of the Charleston County School District in Charleston, S.C. She was most recently chief executive officer of the Philadelphia Education Fund, one of the largest education funds in the country.

DIANE AJL, *LAW '77*, an attorney/supervisor in the Office of Regional Counsel at the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Philadelphia, was honored with the

William T. Wisniewski Human Resources Achievement Award, an award given to an EPA employee who has significantly enhanced employee growth opportunities, positive working relationships and better human relations in the Mid-Atlantic region.

SUSAN R. PERRETTA, *LAW '77*, has been named director of the Delaware County Francis J. Catania Law Library in Media, Pa.

DAVID P. CARROLL, *CLA '78*, is a former staff writer for the *Republican & Herald* newspaper in Pottsville, Pa., the only daily newspaper published in Schuylkill County, Pa.