



Life After HP: Steve Davis Trades Teaching for Travel

One HP retiree has found a way to travel the world in luxury without spending a dime. Steve Davis and his wife Colleen Kalita recently returned from a six-week cruise around Australia on the Sun Princess, where he "paid" his way teaching basic computer skills to other passengers.

Davis taught a total of 19 classes over the course of the voyage, primarily teaching Adobe Photoshop Elements and Microsoft Office skills. His students ranged in age from 35 to 83, though most were retirees. Some of those who signed up for classes wanted to learn how to use the computer for e-mailing or Internet browsing; others sought advice on using their new digital camera or improving the photos they had already taken.

This was Davis' third cruise as technology instructor. "It was really a great opportunity," he said. "It is especially gratifying to teach people who are just getting started in computer usage. I love to witness those great 'aha' moments, when people realize they can do a certain skill. That's the real kick for me."

Davis grew up in a tiny town outside Syracuse, N.Y. He attended a one-room country school for the first eight years of his education and then moved on to a high school with only 41 graduating seniors. From there he went to University of Nebraska where he earned a degree in engineering and on to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he earned a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering. Davis is also an alumnus of Harvard Business School.

He retired from HP in October 2005 after 34 years with the company. During his career he was based at five different sites in New England, working with several groups, including field service, engineering and marketing. His most recent assignment was with the Business Critical Server group in Nashua, N.H.

After retiring, Davis and his wife moved to the Pine Hills in Plymouth, Mass., on land that ironically once belonged to his first employer, Digital Equipment Corporation. When not cruising to far corners of the globe, the Davises play tennis and bridge and kayak near their home. Last November the couple traveled to Egypt. Next they are heading to Williamsburg, Virginia to visit their two grandchildren.

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