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The world of gambling was once never associated with scientific research and evidence-based decision making. I can safely say this for my country – gambling was frowned upon and associated with all sorts of misdemeanors; indeed, cloak and dagger images were conjured in the minds of communities and societies when reference to gambling was made in South Africa.

The study of gaming and the academic approach to this activity has over the years ensured that more intellectual discourse and research is used in the understanding of this area. Of course, one cannot refer to this change without speaking of Professor Bill

Eadington, who is synonymous with the scientific evolution of understanding gambling and gaming studies in the world. His effort and commitment to scholarly work in the understanding of gambling and commercial gaming is indisputable. Such scholarly work has ensured a better understanding of not only the economics of gambling, but also the broader environmental impacts it has on communities -- including the mitigation of any negative impacts on these communities.

In my experience in gambling regulation, I have become aware of the continuous enquiry on the size of this industry, its ability to grow, and the likely changes the industry will undergo as a direct result of technological evolution and economic decline in some regions of the world. On all of these matters, Professor Eadington's knowledge and scholarly work has ensured that regulators of the gambling industry continue to find a balance between the generation of revenue for their governments and proper regulation of this industry without being stringent. I can say with no fear of contradiction that to me, scientific approaches to

gaming regulation today is justly synonymous with Bill Eadington.

My first meeting with Professor Eadington happened recently, alongside Peter Collins in Johannesburg in October of 2010. On that day, we shared views on possible partnerships to teach and expand scholarly knowledge of the gaming industry with the goal of working together with other institutions of higher learning, including the two state universities in Nevada as well as universities in South Africa. We also hoped, in the interim, to plan seminars where UNR and UNLV could train regulators in South Africa and Africa. I am proud to report that this past year, we brought the Eadington educational system to the African continent, hosting the very first gaming seminar for 43 regulators from Southern Africa (Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Botswana; Mozambique; South Africa, amongst others) in October 2011 – just one year after meeting Bill. This type of speed is remarkable in any setting, but especially in the worlds of governments and universities.

During this seminar, his health ensured that Professor Eadington spent his nights in Nevada, offering lectures over Skype and guiding learning across thousands of miles, sharing views on diverse case studies and regulatory content. Such is his commitment to expanding learning and building scholarship across continents: he would wake in the middle of the night, just to teach a group of eager students on the other side of the planet.

It is my wish and indeed still my commitment that our teaching partnership evolves to honor and anchor the efforts of Professor Eadington in South Africa, in an initiative that will grow to embrace regulators of gambling in the entire Southern African region. I am fortunate to have experienced first-hand Professor Eadington's commitment to academia, and through such exposure, like so many of his students, I have been inspired to know and learn more.

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