**TRAVEL, TOURISM & EVENT MANAGEMENT**

**Sullivan students cruise the California coast to Mexico**

Sullivan’s Travel & Tourism students experienced the joys and challenges of traveling when they visited Los Angeles, California, and cruised to exotic Ensenada, Mexico. These trips are designed to help students understand travel protocols from security checks-in to flight connections.

**Heightened security**

Upon arrival at the Louisville International airport, for the flight to Los Angeles, California, students experienced the self check-in at the Delta Airlines kiosk. They also received a taste of heightened airline security requirements, which now regularly include that no liquids of any kind were to be brought on board. Los Angeles was great.

Excitement was in the air when students landed in warm, sunny Los Angeles and took the shuttle to the Hilton Universal Hotel. Some students wanted no time taking advantage of the swimming pool and hot tub. Dinner was at Universal’s CityWalk, an entertainment and huge shopping complex adjacent to Universal Studios. Free to pursue their various culinary desires, a few adventurous souls dined at the Saddle Ranch Chop House and even took a wild ride on the mechanical bull at Hurray for Hollywood.

**On Sunday, students experienced how movies are made when they toured the Universal Studios Hollywood Theme Park.**

That evening, the group took the subway to Hollywood and Highland, a mall and entertainment center in the heart of Hollywood. Students snapped a few pictures of the Hollywood sign and walked along Hollywood Boulevard. Everyone scrambled to find their favorite actor’s star on the Walk of Fame. A highlight of the evening occurred when the group saw Miss America contestants in front of the famous Grauman’s Chinese Theater. Miss Kentucky took time to speak with students and even posed for a few pictures. Their walking tour also included the Kodak Theater, home of the famous annual Academy Awards ceremony.

**Anchors aweigh!**

After a fun night in Hollywood, the students eagerly began the next leg of their trip when they boarded the Monarch of the Seas—Royal Caribbean Cruise Line ship. As they checked in, the students were able to experience first-hand how a cruise begins, how the guests are processed onto the ship, how charge accounts are established, and how purchases are made with a “Sailaway” card. It wasn’t long until the Sullivan students knew where everything was located on board and the variety of features that a cruise ship offers: a pool, food service, entertainment, shows, and, of course, fine dining.

On Tuesday, the cruise ship docked in San Diego and students could pursue many different activities including a visit to the San Diego Zoo, a San Diego water tour to see the USS Ronald Reagan, and a tour that included Coronado Island. Wednesday, they cruised to beautiful Catalina Island, a unique island just off the coast of California. There are very few cars on the island, with most of the transportation being old sailboats.

**Students say ole to Mexico**

Everyone bristled with excitement when arriving in port at Ensenada. Most students took a shore excursion 22 miles from the city center to visit the “World’s Largest Blowhole.” To reach the blowhole, students had to walk through a large open air market. Since many had never experienced anything like this before, this was a great opportunity to see a vast assortment of products of varying quality.

**Homeward bound**

On disembarkation day, Sullivan students saw how a large cruise ship settled its guests’ shipboard accounts and transported them off the vessel in an orderly and timely fashion. In addition, since the cruise had docked in a foreign country, all guests had to clear through customs and through the declaration process when re-entering the US. On the return trip to Lexington, the students experienced some of the perils of air travel. Upon arrival in Cincinnati, the flight was delayed for several hours.

**Sullivan’s Travel, Tourism & Event Management students participate in two annual tours. The tours’ cost is included in students’ tuition and fees.** Sullivan University students Spring 2007 trip will be to historic Boston, and exciting New York! Be sure to check out the next Herald for highlights of their adventure!

---

**Sullivan graduates Chef Allison and Chuck Sobieck real-life story below should inspire every student at Sullivan to see how a dream and a quality education can lead to success.** The two chefs recently co-hosted an Open House about Sullivan’s Culinary Arts program in London, Kentucky for prospective students and educators. Both are members of Sullivan-Lexington’s Culinary Advisory board. Here is their story.

The Sobiecks on a recent visit to Sullivan. Left, the Doolin House at night.

**Students enroll at Sullivan University knowing they will receive a wonderful education and dreaming of success. Some, like Allison Hahn, achieve even more. Allison Hahn enrolled in Sullivan’s Louisville campus immediately after graduating from Somerset High School and was a culinary competition team member for the majority of her stay. The third team I competed on had many new members, one of them introduced me to Chuck. The rest is history.”**

**Two successful businesses**

History now includes marriage to Sullivan classmate Charles (Chuck) Sobieck, their son, and two highly successful businesses: 2Chefs Catering and The Doolin House, a bed and breakfast inn located in Somerset, Kentucky.

“When I was living in Louisville, I worked for Marsha Burton (owner of The Inn at Woodhaven). I immediately fell in love with the whole idea,” Allison recalled. “Even though you are working very long days, 365 days per year, you get to live in a beautiful home, and do the job you love. Since culinarians are destined for long hours anyway, why not do what you love?”

“My favorite part about owning Doolin House is the family life. Chuck added. “We may work from 6 am until 11 pm nightly, but we can stop at 8 pm and put our son to bed. You don’t normally get that luxury when both parents are chefs!”

“**It all began at Sullivan University**

Their Sullivan education has been instrumental in the success they now enjoy. “We had awesome instructors,” Allison said. “The small classes really helped me a lot. I was 18, fresh out of high school, and the last thing on my mind was being hung down to study. Not only did I get my chops busted to get me in line, but the Chef Instructors went above and beyond to make sure I succeeded. Chuck added, “I think a formal culinary education braces you for the workforce with a good, basic understanding of cuisine. A basic knowledge and love for food can carry you a long way.”

A long way for the Sobiecks was back to Allison’s hometown in Somerset. While they renovated The Doolin House, 2Chefs Catering was born.

“Originally it was created to pay bills while the Doolin House was being remodeled. While Chuck worked on the construction of the house, I was going to cater whenever someone needed us,” Allison said.

They were needed a lot. 2Chefs Catering provided a service that Somerset was lacking. With the influx of the medical and retirement communities and technology parks, there was a sudden demand for cuisine. “We thought we would cater to supplement the bed and breakfast, but we do about five parties a week” added Chuck.

**Hard work pays off**

“Don’t assume you’re a chef when you graduate. A chip on your shoulder will only hold you back,” Allison said. “Take whatever work comes your way and learn from it. Trust me, I own two very successful businesses, and do more dishes than anyone who works for us. Do whatever it takes to get the job done. That attitude will take you far.”

Chuck added, “You will get out of food service what you put into it. Take advantage of everything Sullivan has to offer . . . Never turn down a chance to work a shift or work for a job. It pays off in the long run.” For Allison and Chuck, their Sullivan education and hard work have certainly paid off!