Dr. Miller named Associate Dean of Graduate School

A familiar face on Sullivan’s Lexington campus, Dr. Kenneth Miller is now the Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Prior to joining Sullivan University, Dr. Miller was a multi-state regional manager for a Chicago-based, international management consulting firm charged with business development. He owned The Weather Company, a privately-held financial services company, that specialized in retirement and pension distribution strategies for mutual funds or public employees. He also served as the Chief Policy Analyst for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as a Research Associate with the Center of Business & Economic Research at the University of Kentucky, and as an adjunct faculty member with both Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky.

He has been in a variety of publications including Pensions & Investments, Bloomberg News, Investment Management Weekly, Lexington Herald-Leader, Louisville Courier-Journal and he was also the Executive Editor of Financial Services Advisor, a well-respected magazine for financial professionals. He earned a Six Sigma Black Belt designation from Villanova University and a Master’s Certificate in Supply Chain Management from the University of San Francisco.

The Herald was pleased to interview Dr. Miller about his new role.

His vision for the Graduate School
“Sullivan University & Kentucky’s career university. We are truly a unique institution which serves students who demand career-oriented, applications-centered educational opportunities. I want regional employers to see the graduates from Sullivan’s Graduate School as being ready-to-work once they receive their degrees. Every degree program, every class, and every professor is reinforcing this readiness-to-work ethic by bringing something value-added, that students can use the next day on the job or solve problems they will likely face once they receive their graduate degrees.”

Behind his biography
“Like a large portion of our student body, I was the first person on both sides of my family to receive a four-year college degree, so I know some of the challenges and insecurities many of our students face when they enter Sullivan University’s doors the first time. ”

Dr. Kenneth Miller and Sullivan University’s Graduate School are certainly a winning combination!

More than two hundred new Lexington graduates joined graduates from Sullivan’s Louisville and Fort Knox campuses at Sullivan’s Fall 2009 graduation ceremony held at the magnificent Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Sullivan’s graduations are unique. Rather than one held in May like most other collegiate institutions, Sullivan graduation ceremonies are held in Spring and Fall and offer a traditional, finely appointed ceremony with ample room for all graduates’ families, friends and supporters to attend this time-honored event.

Julie Safiwullah, Director of Lexington’s Career Services, said, “It is very satisfying, from Career Services’ point of view, to see new graduates commence their careers with positive outlooks on their future.” Many of these students have participated in a job-search workshops, or requested assistance finding an elective internship or part-time job, and are now moving on to a new stage in their professional development. Their new degree only adds to their marketability as an employee. “Amy Daugherty, Career Services Administrator, who coordinates commencement preparation and oversees regalia for Lexington’s graduates, offered her impression, “Commencement is the capstone of a graduate’s educational journey. At this anticipated event, each graduate is surrounded by their support system of family, teachers, mentors, and staff. The many hours of dedication, perseverance, and commitment have culminated into this moment. It is a moment of triumph and of success.”

Sullivan’s Spring graduation will be held on April 17, 2010 at Southeast Christian Church. Everyone is invited to attend this joyous occasion.

Pharmacy Tech students benefit from unique “hands-on” training

Sullivan’s Pharmacy Technician students have another way to receive the experience they will need in the workplace. The University has recently installed a simulated Barrier Isolator Hood for its Pharmacy Operations class. Hoods are used to prepare sterile medications in a medical setting including intravenous medications (IV’s), ophthalmic medications, and chemotherapy treatments. The Barrier Isolator Hood, which has a piece of glass separating the inside of the hood where medications are assembled, is commonly used to prepare chemotherapy. The extra protection of the glass is for the patient’s benefit, as well as the person who is preparing the chemotherapy and/or other medication.

There are many different types of hoods used on a daily basis in the pharmacy. By maneuvering the simulator’s glass shield up and down, students in Sullivan’s Pharmacy Technician program can adjust it to simulate three different types of hoods commonly used in pharmacies today.

Meet a current Sullivan IT student (and alum) - he’s a real whiz kid

In most families, hair and eye color are something parents pass on to their children. In the Gaukainer family, alma maters run in the family! Allen Gaukainer, a current IT student, and his mother Cheri are both alumni of Sullivan’s Lexington campus. Chen graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Leadership. Allen graduated in 2008 with his Associate degree in Information Technology, and now is pursuing a Bachelor’s in that field.

In addition to the Lexington campus, but finding him with some extra free time is hard since Allen is also a business owner – and he’s only 23 years old! Allen began his web business when he was a junior at West Jessamine High School and now has clients such as Critchfield Meats and Alltech. Making and enhancing websites has long been a talent of Allen’s. He and two friends created a business by networking and discovering they could provide a needed service. While Allen is the only partner left, business isn’t slowing down! Allen doesn’t do too much advertising, but he notes that word of mouth keeps him plenty busy. And that’s just his part-time gig! Allen is also the Assistant Director of Operations for Green Thumb Marketing in Lexington as his full-time position! Allen plans on staying at Sullivan a little while longer, as he has aspirations to complete his Master’s in Managing Information Technology (MSMIT) to add to his list of credentials.

Way to go, Allen!