Students had a blast exploring historic New Orleans

It was an early beginning on our Learning Journey to New Orleans, as our bus left Sullivan’s Lexington campus at 5am. Excitement was in the air as students began their four-day adventure. This was also the first year that Tourism & Event Management students from the Lexington and Louisville campuses had teamed up for this hands-on portion of their curriculum experience.

Event planning trade show was great learning experience

The highlight of New Orleans trip was The Special Events trade show, which provided valuable information to the Meeting and Event Planning connoisseurs and those seeking experience in the field alike. Students were excited to take in all the new and innovative ideas and trends in the Event Planning Industry. One of the group’s favorites was Bedazzle (my Bonbon), which were simple chocolate truffles coated with edible glitter, available in 24 colors and six delicious flavors. It was a hands-on personal event stimulator like “Dance Head Recordings” where you are recorded lip-syncing to a song of your choice. Kool was a contemporary furnishings and décor rental company. Their displays included illuminated backdrop stands with the furniture they provide, creating a very “cool” atmosphere. Anything related to events, meetings, and parties that you could possibly imagine, from booths promoting backdrops, flooring options, décor, resorts, venues, to equipment was available for the students to discover. After learning new information about their chosen career field, the group gathered at ACME Oyster House in the heart of the French Quarter. The restaurant offered a true sampling of New Orleans’ cuisine— from seafood gumbo to shrimp and oyster Po-Boys—the group had a taste of it all.

The atmosphere was charming, the balcony overlooking the French Quarter provided an enchanting view. The praline dessert topped with vanilla ice cream was everyone’s favorite treat. “Jazzed” in the French Quarter After dinner, the group enjoyed a true jazz performance at Historic Preservation Hall. This minute show was both inspirational and showed jazz music from its roots. The collaboration of the band and the enthusiasm of the crowd of listeners gave a very memorable experience. New Orleans is known for its lively nightlife and atmosphere of Bourbon Street and the French Quarter unlike any other place in the United States. The students were in awe of all the sights and sounds of this— the Mardi Gras capital. Another aspect bringing in the whirlwind dining continued with breakfast at Brennan’s the next morning and Mulates, along with Zydeco cotton candy and French as a side dish.

On Saturday, students toured the city of New Orleans, with stops at the St. Louis Cathedral, and shopping at the French Market. The next day the group headed back to Kentucky after a wonderful educational visit to fabulous New Orleans.

Socks for Supper

The Chef Ambassador program began as a faculty grant. Dee Hudson, National Center for Hospitality Studies faculty member, received the award to develop 20 Sullivan culinary students for the 2010 Equestrian Games. They are being developed with faculty support to be professional, community-minded, business men and women as well as chefs. The Ambassadors will receive the Lexington Hospitality Certification to prepare them for the crowds and questions of the visitors from around the world that will be attending the games. The students will do private and public catering for the guests throughout the two weeks of games.

In December, after the collection of “Socks for Supper,” the group prepared and served a Christmas meal for 250 homeless men, women and children of Lexington. The gift of socks was presented at the meal which was received with warm hearts. Dee’s vision for the Ambassadors is for them to become proficient in the culinary arts and give back to the community in some way.

A Long story: Sullivan professor’s appearance at the Supreme Court

To most, the initials SCOTUS don’t mean much but, if you are Professor Robert Long, they mean a great deal. SCOTUS is the common acronym for the Supreme Court of the United States, and Robert Long is an attorney working in the Kentucky Attorney General’s office. Long is also an adjunct professor in the Paralegal Studies Department at Sullivan. Last October, Robert Long argued a case in front of the US Supreme Court, in the matter of Padilla v. Commonwealth of Kentucky. As The Herald goes to press, opinions had not been released by the Court, a final determination of the case is pending.

When Professor Long talks about his experiences in front of the Supreme Court, he mentions how excited he is with the whole process since essentially, in his line of work, the justices of the Supreme Court are similar to rockstars, and he’s in front of them arguing legal proceedings! During oral arguments at the Supreme Court, attorneys are timed by a light system that changes color when it is their turn to speak or to indicate five minutes remain before they run out of time. During the last five minutes before he presented his case, he mentioned how nervous he was but, when it was his turn, he presented his case just like he would if he were back at home!

Sullivan students were a hit at Incredible Food Show

“I was thrilled and extremely proud to have played a small part in the wonderful event put on by Sullivan University. Go 500! RC BRUCH ’07

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“The whirlwind of students that were on stage for the sugar restoration and musical influence was a fantastic experience!” BILL SRIYAN Tourism & Event Management

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Louisiana Superdome and the fans were overflowing the city, getting everyone pumped up for this playoff game. Cultural diversity is at its peak in New Orleans and experiencing it was an important part of the students’ learning journey.

The next day students attended break-out sessions from the trade show. In these conference sessions students could learn from top event professionals and experts in fields such as event management, design, wedding trends, food services, event tools and resources, just to name a few. There were more than 100 sessions in eight relevant event tracks and students could custom design their own programs.

That evening the group attended the world famous Arnaud’s Restaurant in the French Quarter, a wonderful glimpse at Creole cuisine just as its name suggests. The whirlwind dining continued with breakfast at Brennan’s the next morning and Mulates, along with Zydeco cotton candy and French as a side dish.

On Saturday, students toured the city of New Orleans, with stops at the St. Louis Cathedral, and shopping at the French Market. The next day the group headed back to Kentucky after a wonderful educational visit to fabulous New Orleans.

Above, Lexington students Danielle Dillow and Amy Canter enjoy sightseeing in New Orleans French Quarter.

Above, Sullivan students from the Louisviile and Lexington campuses pose for a group picture.

“Meeting and working with Bobby Play was the ultimate experience! I am in the right industry.” VLAD SILVERIO, Culinary Arts