Sullivan student is living her dream

Student Leslie Rogers interviewing author Silas House for a segment of ‘From These Hills’ shown on WYMT.

“Growing up in all that coal town to Pikeville, I was literally a coal miner’s daughter with a passion for entertainment. It wasn’t until I believed in myself did my dreams start to come together,” stated Leslie Rogers.

Spending meaningful years in an insurance business, auditioning for films, print and commercials, and starting a business, it soon became clear to Leslie that she needed education to help her achieve her goals and pull all of her talents together.

Sullivan was the best choice.

“When trying to run a company for the first time, I realized that I needed help. So, I started looking at colleges to see if I could take some accounting classes,” Leslie recalls. “She visited Sullivan and when she told her story of her acting, insurance experience and recent ownership of a company, a marketing program seemed to be a fit for Leslie’s next step.

“I never thought of getting a degree in marketing, but it was perfect for me and I think that I want to do something that I enjoy,” Leslie said.

DUNN BURBAGE, Paralegal Studies

Sullivan offers mock trial as a class in the 2009-2010 season of Mock Trial collegiate competitions. Those students were Amy Messner, Amy Mitchell, Tanya Murrah, Shera Smith, Scott McMillian, Bekki Dussault, Jannessy Estes and Laura Robinson.

What is Mock Trial?

Mock Trial is a nationwide competition involving teams of students and is sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). In August, the AMTA releases a mock trial case that will form the basis of the competition. In September, teams compete at invitational tournaments, culminating in regional and national competitions in February.

The competition consists of the case by playing the roles of attorneys and witnesses with one team playing the prosecution and the other defense. Tournaments usually consist of four matches over a two day period, with two or more teams alternating prosecution and defense. Matches are judged by actual judges and attorneys who play the role of judge during the mock trial. Witnesses and attorneys are scored, and the team with the highest score wins the match.

The format is like a real trial; attorneys give opening statements, each side calls witnesses that are examined and cross-examined, and the case concludes with closing arguments. Witnesses are given materials that tell what the witness knows, but may invent details consistent with their character. For example, a student playing the role of crime scene investigator might describe the process of dusting for fingerprints or analyzing DNA.

Attorneys are expected to question witnesses and make evidence objections just as real attorneys would. Evidence rules used are based upon the Federal Rules of Evidence used in the federal court system.

Central Kentucky Career Competition

Sullivan University-Lexington campus recently hosted the 10th annual Central Kentucky Career Competition (CKCC). More than 90 high school juniors and seniors from 11 high schools in various regions of the state participated in competing for scholarship and awards. Sullivan University offered 13 different events, allowing students to participate in events that matched their skill levels. This career competition included the following categories: culinary, keyboarding, computer applications, job interviewing, medical terminology, desktop publishing, speech, mock court, business math, accounting, marketing, computer networking, and business law. First place in the team competition went to Paul Laurence Dunbar High School; Bryan Station High School ranked second, and third place went to Lafayette High School.