Thoburn are happy for Chef Foster’s honor.

Hicks, Jonathan Ross Gigliotti and Melody

Left to right, Gleb Dzhemnikhanov, Matt

Walt Disney World and Trade Show

Florida “classrooms”

Students attend Florida “classrooms”

Walt Disney World and Trade Show

highlight student learning journey

Sullivan University Event Management & Tourism students from the Lexington and Louisville campuses recently traveled to Orlando and Tampa, Florida, incorporating both Walt Disney World and The Special Event Trade Show.

While in Orlando, the group stayed at the Port Orleans Riverside Resort at Walt Disney World, inspired by the days of riverboats and Mark Twain.

Students enjoyed the Louisiana-style resort, with its six different pools, many walking paths, and even a stocked fishing hole.

After checking in and unpacking everyone enjoyed an afternoon at the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, Hollywood Studios, or Animal Kingdom, using bus, water-taxi, or monorail to explore the parks at their leisure.

Informative educational seminars

The first full day at Walt Disney World started with an educational seminar and tour of the world-famous Grand Floridian Resort, a Victorian-themed hotel, known for its romantic ambience, fine dining, and white-sand beach. A question and answer seminar followed the in-depth tour by the Convention Services Manager.

Students toured other Disney properties like the Polynesian, Contemporary and Fort Wilderness Lodges. Students were met at each property by resort managers and viewed guest rooms, meeting and convention facilities, and event venues.

Behind the scenes peek

The following day the student group toured EPCOT with their own private tour guides. They spent time “behind the scenes” at World Showcases, where their guides pointed out specific details highlighting tourism and event management venues. After the full day of educational fun the students broke up into smaller groups and enjoyed dining in the different World Showcase pavilions, such as Germany, France, and Japan. One group went to Disney’s Spirit of Aloha Luau & Dinner show at the Polynesian Resort, which combines traditional music and hula dancing that is considered some of the most authentic this side of Hawaii.

Great networking event

After Walt Disney World, the group headed to Tampa, Florida to attend The Special Event Conference & Trade Show. The Event attracted more than 5,000 special event planners, exhibitors, and meeting planners. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to network with top industry professionals, and learn what is new in the event planning world. Students were thrilled to learn about new products and techniques they could incorporate into their careers in the future.

After attending the trade show, the students chose which educational seminars to attend; there were more than 100 classes or workshops offered during the convention.

“It was interesting to see new aspects and trends of such a growing industry,” stated student Melissa Hawkins, adding, “The guest panel during the seminar was very informative on how the industry has changed through the years. I’m very excited about my chosen career path after seeing the numerous opportunities!”

The group had a wonderful time sampling some of January in sunny Florida, and learned a great deal with the help of Walt Disney World and The Special Event Conference & Trade Show.

Check out the next Herald for highlights of the cruise being planned for Fall 2012.

Everyone benefits

Student mentors help fellow classmate

Led by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Ann Moore, the student mentor program at Sullivan’s Lexington campus has reached out to hundreds of students since the mentor program’s inception in the Fall of 2008.

What do student mentors do?

Mentors are here to listen and guide new students as they transition into college life at Sullivan. Mentors also refer students to the appropriate campus resources when they have questions about advising, financial aid, or tutoring assistance.

Since the program began, 122 student mentors, three staff mentors, and 30 faculty mentors have reached out to first-quarter students. Student mentors have engaged and assisted their new students in a variety of ways including: hosting study groups, tutoring, planning off-campus socials, and even assisting classmates.

In addition to the efforts made by the student mentors, the mentor committee plans at least one event per quarter where new students have the opportunity to meet their mentors. Usually the event is a pizza luncheon held during the second week of the quarter, but the committee has also organized a welcome table at the campus picnic where students can meet their mentors. The committee encourages all first-quarter students to reach out to their student mentors because the mentors have a wealth of knowledge and the willingness to share that knowledge with others.

Left to right: Liz Denham, Stephanie Nace, and Monika Ireland, under the direction of Chef Instructor Melissa Armstrong, created Sullivan’s themed entry from Missy’s Diner; All American Sliders. Their eye catching food entry, along with their themed table, earned them the award of Most Artful for best exemplifying these cool, stylish years!

Unity Day 2012

Sullivan welcomed Dr. Steven Oliver, pictured, the Vice President of Institutional Diversity at the University of Kentucky, for the annual Unity Day celebration on campus.

Dr. Oliver delivered a speech filled with personal anecdotes, inspiration, and hope for the future. His current research is focused on the impact of race and gender on access to educational opportunities within the United States.

Dr. Oliver touched the minds of several young scholars that day; many raised their hands with questions, and received gentle instruction about perseverance and fighting for success.

As the assembly came to a close, everyone walked away with a more meaningful view of diversity.

Left to right: Monika Ireland, Liz Denham, and Stephanie Nace at their winning display.

The 22nd annual ‘Artful of Fun, Rebel with a Cause’, was ‘a blast to the past’ as local restaurants and businesses supported the Living Arts & Science Center with a community fundraiser. Three hundred guests enjoyed the 50’s theme including music, vintage cars, dancing, carhops and doo wop groups. Three Sullivan Culinary Club members, Liz Denham, Stephanie Nace, and Monika Ireland, under the direction of Chef Instructor Melissa Armstrong, created Sullivan’s themed entry from Missy’s Diner; All American Sliders. Their eye catching food entry, along with their themed table, earned them the award of Most Artful for best exemplifying these cool, stylish years!

Congratulations to Chef Foster, Sullivan Lexington’s 2011 Faculty of the Year recipient.

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