It all began with Sullivan College sophomore travel and tourism students and three staff members from the Louisville and Lexington campuses boarding a plane at Louisville International Airport for their flight to sunny Florida.

First Stop... Orlando

Upon arriving in Orlando, students spent their first day and evening at Disney’s Pleasure Island. The following day, students had their choice of visiting one of Walt Disney’s theme parks, Sea World, or Universal Studios. Then, it was on to Ft. Lauderdale by bus to board the Carnival Lines cruise ship Fantasy for a trip to the Bahamas.

Set Sail... Next Stop Bahamas

While at sea, the Sullivan students were invited to attend the Captain’s dinner and reception. Once in the Bahamas, students had the opportunity to go scuba diving, snorkeling and shopping before heading back to the United States.

A Valuable Learning Experience

“This trip was not all fun and games for our students,” said Sherry Klein, Director of Placement for the National Center for Hospitality Studies. “While on this trip, our students gathered information, spoke with theme park employees, a variety of ship’s personnel, and others in the travel and tourism industry. Each student then writes a report on the information they gathered.”

“Our graduates are accepting positions at major hotels, theme parks, air lines and travel agencies across the country,” added Mrs. Klein. “It is, therefore, very important that our students get first-hand experience and exposure to the travel and tourism industry.”

One of Two Trips

The annual cruise is one of two trips included as part of the regular tuition for Sullivan travel and tourism students. The first trip freshmen level students take is usually to a major tourist site in the United States. The most recent trip took Sullivan students to New York City and Washington, D.C., by train and charter bus. “These trips are an excellent way of combining the classroom experience with exposure to the real world,” added Mrs. Klein.