Put the toolbelt away! Sullivan’s Construction Management concentration is alive and well!

One of the newest and most exciting additions to Sullivan University’s curriculum is the Construction Management concentration in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program. The program coordinator, LaVena Wilkin, has 26 years of construction management experience to the program. She began working for Martin and McDonald Co., Inc. in 1975. Twenty-three years (and three Sullivan University degrees later), she bought the company. Her goal as owner and President of Martin & McDonald Company is to help organize an advisory board of General Contractors (AGC) of Kentucky, and better prepare employees.”

Advisory board is forming

As a means to that end, Ms. Wilkin has recruited Eric Highley, the Executive Vice-President of Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Kentucky, to help organize an advisory board of industry leaders. Mr. Highley is very excited about Sullivan University’s Construction Management concentration and believes that “collaborating with Sullivan will not only help graduates receive meaningful training, but will also provide the industry with well-trained and better prepared employees.”

He has promoted Sullivan’s program to the AGC of America in Washington, DC and recruited several of Kentucky’s leading contractors and associates to provide input on the development of the concentration.

Congratulations well received

Current students in the charter Construction Management class say the classes they have taken already helped them in their careers. Steve Back, pictured left, holds a Sullivan University Diploma, which he earned by working in the construction industry for about eight years and is currently managing the customer service department for Ball Homes. Steve says he is “very excited about the construction program Ms. Wilkin is developing, but would be utilized in thousands of schools throughout the United Kingdom. Other partnerships include the Institute of Directors (IoD), a $5,000 member organization of the most senior executives of British corporations. The IoD is partnering with Sullivan to utilize a Mediation Resource Kit Sullivan is developing with potentially be utilized in thousands of schools throughout the United Kingdom. Other partnerships include the Institute of Directors (IoD), a $5,000 member organization of the most senior executives of British corporations. The IoD is partnering with Sullivan to utilize a Mediation Resource Kit Sullivan is developing with non-profit organizations.

Welcome new faculty

Sullivan University’s Graduate School recently welcomed Dr. Angela Girdley as a full-time member of the faculty. Her previous position was Director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Louisville where she directed programming, coordinated campus facilities and provided spiritual counseling and direction. Dr. Girdley earned her Ph.D. from U of L and her dissertation focused on the affordability of higher education across states. In addition to her academic credentials, she draws on 16 years of experience developing leaders, facilitating leadership teams and guiding non-profit organizations.

Dr. Girdley is an avid outdoors woman and athlete who lists camping, biking, golf and snow skiing among her favorite activities. She also enjoys playing the guitar and violin, is learning the mandolin and even once played fiddle in a country band. Her husband, Jim, is a corporate pilot. When you see Dr. Girdley without a campus, she will give you a hearty Sullivan University welcome!

Left to right: Eric Highley, Executive Vice President of AGC of Kentucky, LaVena Wilkin and Todd Osborne new employees for Martin & McDonald Company.

Wilkin is developing and I have started practicing my new knowledge. “Likewise, Eric Herron, an online student from Indianapolis, is a project manager for a rather large electrical contractor,” and says the classes have “helped me already in my daily job. I really wish I would have taken them a year ago before I started estimating and managing.”

Scholarship News

Sullivan student is first recipient of $5,000 award

At the recent National Conference of the Career College Association, the Career College Foundation awarded five $5,000 scholar- ships to former members of the military who are currently attending a college or university in the United States. From hundreds of candidates, Sullivan University Colonel and student Richard Calacaro, a Navy veteran, was selected to receive one of the five scholarships and was honored as the very first recipient of this new national scholarship. President Sullivan was present for the award ceremony and said, “I am very proud of Richard and thank him for his service to our country.”

Member of British House of Lords is Fall commencement speaker

The University is proud to announce that the commencement speaker for the Fall 2004 graduation is Lord William Brett of London, England. Lord Brett is a member of the House of Lords since 1999. He is also a member of the governing body of the International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to that service, he was Director and General Secretary of the Institute of Civil Servants for Great Britain.

Enrolled with Sullivan University-Eurasia

Lord Brett has been working with Sullivan University-Europe, which is involved in providing online programs in mediation and other disciplines to a variety of Common Market and other countries and organizations. Lord Brett is assisting the University with introductions to British organizations and other programs.

In a recent article Lord Brett was described “as a gentle giant, intelligent, well-spoken and proud of his Irish heritage,” President Sullivan shared. “We are honored to have Lord Brett address our graduates this fall.”

The University will award Lord Brett an Honorary Doctorate at commencement which will be held on Saturday morning, October 9, 2004, in the 8000-seat main auditorium of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville. Sullivan University will have two graduations this fall, in April for Fall and Winter quarter graduates and in October for the Spring and Summer quarter graduates.

Highlights of the previous Spring 2004 graduation on page 12.

In London, England, Lord Brett (left) recently met with Dr. A.R. Sullivan, president of the Sullivan University System.