Sullivan offers new blended Master’s Degree

One of the newest offerings for graduate students is the exciting blend of the Master’s in Business Administration and the Master’s of Science in Dispute Resolution (MBA/MSDR) degree.

Using the existing course offerings in both the MBA and the MSDR programs, Dr. Jeff Johnson, Dean of the Graduate School and Professor LaVena Wilkin, Director of Graduate Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs, worked to combine the core elements of each degree to provide Sullivan University students with the opportunity to earn a dual degree. Students can complete this unique program in two years, if they maintain full-time status. The rationale for this new degree offering is two-fold: first, a focus group of industry-hiring and human-resource managers identified the desired soft skills for a job candidate as conflict resolution skills, negotiation skills, facilitation skills, and cultural diversity skills; second, while the courses in the MSDR program help students become proficient in the soft or people skills, an MBA degree provides them with expertise in business. Therefore, a dual MSDR/MBA degree offers them the best of both — a mastery of business concepts and the ability to work with the people within the organization.

IT Academy continues strong growth - new partnership formed

With the ongoing success of Sullivan University’s IT Academy delivering Microsoft and Cisco courses, Sullivan continues to meet the needs of the local business community for both entry-level and high-level employees. To provide a path for current professionals and offer a program with verifiable demand in the community, the University is working with Systemation and other partners to deliver a three-quarter addition to the IT Academy curriculum. The courses will provide bachelor’s and/or master’s degree elective credits. Students can take any or all of the courses. No one course is entirely dependent on the student taking the other courses first. The program will focus on certification preparation for the following internationally-recognized bodies:

- International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA) http://www.iiba.com
- Project Management Institute (PMI) http://www.pmi.org
- Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) http://www.itil.co.uk

Meetings for the demand a fast track education as well as providing a flexible schedule for IT professionals, the courses will be taught in intensive sessions over consecutive weekends. Students may take either the weekend schedule (Friday-Sunday) or attend weeknights (Monday-Thursday). Currently there are more than 8,000 jobs posted on Monster.com for Business Analyst (Technology), 14,000 for IT Project Managers, and 1,000 for ITIL certified professionals. According to Salary.com, technology workers with just one of these certifications, and four-five years experience can earn a six-figure salary.

Sullivan’s Hotel/Restaurant Management faculty recently held an Open House where they welcomed more than 120 student and non-student visitors. The goal, according to Kenny Sommerville, Department Chair, was to “showcase our program” and “create buzz” with hopes to attract dual associate degree majors from other National Center for Hospitality Studies’ degree programs such as Culinary Arts, Professional Catering, and Baking & Pastry Arts. “Management skills and human relations skills are in high demand for entry-level workers in the hospitality industry,” Sommerville said, adding, “Through our program’s coursework and the hands-on internships that we provide in both the lodging and foodservice segments of the industry, these are the skills that we are focused on.” Beth Linn, an admissions officer on Sullivan’s main campus, added, “It was a great Open House. We invited some prospective students to meet the faculty and to learn about the Hotel/Restaurant Management program, and I’m confident that those folks will be enrolling in the program very soon.”

Graduation Time: Smiles all around!

It’s difficult to discern who gets a bigger kick out of graduation — those receiving degrees, like Yasha Cramble pictured here, or the friends and family in the audience! Sullivan’s unique year-round quarter system produces graduates in March, June, September, and December, and recognizes their achievements with two formal graduation ceremonies each year. Turn to page 3 for highlights of the Fall 2006 commencement.

Winston’s Restaurant re-opens

After nearly three months and an investment of more than $400,000 in front-of-the-house renovation and new design, approximately 200 faculty, staff, invited guests and dignitaries viewed the ribbon-cutting ceremony to rededicate and officially re-open for business, Sullivan University’s on-campus gourmet restaurant, “Winston’s.” Assistant Director of Metro Louisville’s Economic Development Department, John Fischer, presented a proclamation from Metro Mayor Abramson to President Glenn Sullivan heralding Winston’s Rededication Celebration. Winston’s, now entering its second decade as one of the foremost culinary training restaurants in the country, has re-opened with a new look, new logo and enhanced menu. In 1996, when the restaurant first opened, the partnership between Sullivan University and Winston Industries was established and the restaurant was named “Winston” in honor of Sullivan benefactor and Winston Industries President, Winston Shelton.