Everyone enjoys the annual Paralegal Roundtable event

Practicing paralegals from the Louisville legal community joined students from The Institute for Legal Studies at Sullivan University for the 16th consecutive Paralegal Roundtable Discussion. The annual event provides an opportunity for students to meet with and network with legal professionals who are willing to share their time and expertise.

Outstanding speakers

Sullivan students were especially fortunate this year as two Roundtable Discussions were held, one for the day division and one for the evening division. The four legal professionals participating in the evening division Roundtable Discussion were:

- Denise Cunningham, Paralegal with the law office of M. Lynne Osterholt.
- Sandi Preston, Paralegal with the US Small Business Administration (SBA) in Louisville. Sandi works closely with the Kentucky Regional Counsel for the SBA and Sullivan adjunct faculty member.
- Rebecca Hooper, Paralegal with YUM! Brands, Inc. Rebecca is a Sullivan associate degree graduate.
- Barry Sears, Paralegal with the law office of Frost Brown & Todd. Barry earned his bachelor’s degree from Sullivan University.

The four legal professionals participating in the evening division Roundtable Discussion were:

- Pam Byerly, a Sullivan bachelor’s degree graduate and Paralegal with the law office of Woodward Holborow & Fulton.
- Joyce Bobbitt, Paralegal, Administrator, Office, Louisville Metro Police Department and Sullivan graduate.
- Gladys Smith, Office Manager, law office of Weber & Rose, is a graduate of Spencerville College, a division of The Sullivan University System. Gladys is a member of the Sullivan Legal Studies Advisory Board.
- Susan Wettte, freelance paralegal, formerly with the Jefferson County Attorney’s Office and a graduate of Sullivan. Susan operates her own paralegal business, marketing her services to attorneys and law firms in the local area on an independent contract basis.

Great opportunity for students

All the speakers took turns explaining their role and function at their respective places of employment. The speakers covered such topics as their job title, area of prac- tice, specific job responsibilities, work environment, contact with other parale- gals, judges, attorneys, law clerks, sec- retaries, etc., positive/ negative aspects of the job, and opportunities for advancement.

Question and answer session

Students attending the Roundtable Discussion were anxious to ask ques- tions, and were provided with honest and direct answers from the speakers. After the event, many students said it had been a great “eye-opener” and helped them to begin thinking about future employment opportunities.

From a toque to a helmet

Pat Pendleton-Bixler and her son, Jason McConnell, have always enjoyed being together. They enrolled at Sullivan in Fall 2003, roomed together in student housing, and graduated in 2005. Jason (although dyslexic) graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Baking & Pastry Arts while Pat earned her degree in Travel & Tourism. Shortly after graduation, Jason was deployed to Iraq. Below, he shares some of his thoughts and experiences with The Herald.

"I lived in Iraq for different every soldier. Everyone has their own way to over- come and different living conditions that they must learn how to adapt to. . . . I highly recommend the Sullivan campus as your school of choice! I was very impressed with the school and the people I met. I made lifelong friends and I made me feel welcome."

CHRISTINA RAYNICEP, Paralegal student

Carrie Davis, Paralegal Studies student, was impressed and offered the following comments: “Very informative! The paralegal field seems to be wide open and with many possibilities for different kinds of work. The paralegals we met seem to really love their jobs, and they are very good at it. We had many different kinds of work. I left the event excited about my future career.” Ms. Crady plans to continue her education at Sullivan for her bachelor’s degree.

Faculty members attend prestigious national conference

Pictured above, Nicholas Riggs, Director of Legal Studies and Jennifer Gaither, Paralegal Studies faculty member recently attended the 25th anniversary of the national conference of the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Riggs, a member of the AAfPE national conference committee, was pleased with the event and the found the conference to be very worthwhile. “A beneficial aspect of the conference was meeting with and getting commitments from several vendors to provide free or low-cost legal software to AAfPE paralegal students to purchase across the country. One means Sullivan can keep up-to-date with technology that is impacting the legal environment,” Mr. Riggs said. “And we were pleased that AAfPE could contribute in some small way to the revitalization of New Orleans just a year after Hurricane Katrina hit. The hotel was great and the city welcomed our students.”

"It is great to have time set aside for paralegal students to show their paralegal skills and to ask questions." BARRY SEARS

"I decided to return to school after serving in the military. Getting it done took a lot of hard work and fear of returning to school after such a long break. Sullivan University really helped me out and I am so grateful."

CHRISTINA RAYNICEP, Paralegal student

Dr. A.R. Sullivan, Chancellor of Sullivan University beams as he prepares to hand out diplomas to the graduating students of all three Sullivan campuses: the main campus in Louisville, the one in Lexington and Fort Knox branches.

Fall 2006 Graduation

More than 4,000 people were in attendance at beautiful Southeast Christian Church to honor the accomplishments realized by each and every graduate. Cameras flashed as families and friends watched with pride as graduates were awarded certificates, diplomas, associate, bachelor, and master’s degrees from Kentucky’s largest independent university, University of Southern Christian Church. University beams as he prepares to hand out diplomas to the graduating students of all three Sullivan campuses: the main campus in Louisville, the one in Lexington and Fort Knox branches.

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Carrie Davis, Paralegal Studies student.

"It’s time to take cover!”

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The Herald staff often has the opportunity to develop close friendships with many students and often corresponds with them after they graduate. Pat Pendleton-Bixler is one of those people. Pat wrote The Herald a few months later.

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