They’re back! Sullivan students return from “fueling” the US Olympic team in Beijing, China

While they didn’t win any medals, Team Sullivan surpassed their personal best when it came to catering and feeding the United States Olympic athletes at the 2008 Summer games in Beijing, China.

Thanks to Chef/Instructor Kimberly Jones, CPCC, CEC Chair of Sullivan’s Professional Catering degree program and her relationship with Frambahse Catering, the official caterer for the United States Olympic Organizing Committee (USOC), Sullivan University was the only culinary school in the United States chosen to provide students for this event. After having spent seven months in training, (including participation in the Dale Carnegie Leadership Training Program, and attending Chinese Etiquette and Cultural Classes), three Chef/Instructors and 22 Culinary Arts, Baking & Pastry Arts and Professional Catering students from the National Center for Hospitality Studies on Sullivan’s Louisville and Lexington campuses were Beijing-bound.

Diligent preparation paid off

Team Sullivan soon learned that food service in Beijing was very different from service in the states. The USOC had taken over two large restaurants in Beijing and when they arrived in China, the Sullivan group was assigned to “Americanize” each venue – very much like opening a new restaurant in four day’s time. Those days were 14-16 hours long, but Sullivan students were equal to the task and their venues were ready to welcome the athletes and the VIP attendees to the Olympic Games.

Challenging roles

Team Sullivan was divided into two groups, one served at the USOC High Performance Training Center (HPTC), the other was assigned to the USA House. Everyone had a role and faced many different challenges. “Baking & Pastry Arts students probably faced the most day-to-day challenges since they were preparing baking products for both venues while actually baking, stated Chef/Instructor Kimberly Jones. “They were transporting their product via taxi cab and vans twice daily to and from the HPTC and the USA House. The USA House employees faced the endurance of constantly climbing stairs since dining areas were on four separate floors with the kitchen in the basement. Plus, in a foreign country we never knew from day-to-day what product we may or may not receive, making the job of client satisfaction that more challenging as both the athletes and VIP’s were very specific in their menu needs and the USOC runs a tight ship.” Team Sullivan were all winners. “Sullivan’s entire student team rose to the occasion and performed their jobs professionally, without complaint and represented the University with poise and dignity,” Chef/Instructor Jones stated, adding, “Sullivan students experienced the job interview of a lifetime, were exposed to professional catering exposure, and a resume listing that will help to enhance their careers for many years to come.” See page 11 for pictorial highlights.

Sullivan to offer new online degree in Beverage Management

Sullivan University’s National Center for Hospitality Studies (NCHS) will add a degree in Beverage Management in 2009. This new major will offer students a new track of study in the Hospitality Industry. New courses will include, Wines of the New & Old World, Specialty Teas & Coffees, Bar Management & Mixology, Beers & Spirits, Managing Beverage Operations, and a professional internship.

The Beverage Management degree will be offered online allowing even more students from around the world to enroll and experience Sullivan University’s outstanding career opportunities.

Students who graduate with this Associate of Science degree will be employed as Beverage Managers, Sommeliers, and Bar Owners, to name a few career options. These students will also have the option of continuing their studies for Sullivan’s popular Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management degree. The Beverage Management degree programs will be the sixth Associate of Science degree program offered by the NCHS, the first entirely online. Other NCHS degree programs include Associate of Science Degrees in Culinary Arts, Hotel-Restaurant Management, Baking & Pastry Arts, Professional Catering, Travel, Tourism & Event Management and a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management.

New IT platform will benefit students

Sullivan University, always an innovator in education, makes sure to stay abreast of the latest changes in technology. Since the Microsoft (MCSE) program was established at Sullivan ten years ago, requirements for teaching advanced technology courses have changed. Now, thanks to Micro- soft and the Mirazon Group, Sullivan has completely redesigned the technology platform used to provide students with hands-on experience with Microsoft and other software products.

Expansion continues

Sullivan University is also making an additional investment in the current Cisco learning platform. Sullivan’s Cisco learning environment was designed by instructors John Gutermuth and Chris Anderson. John and Chris manage the world-wide infrastructure for a Fortune 5 company, and teach the Cisco certification courses in the IT Academy.

Sullivan receives prestigious grant

Rounding out the expansion is a $500,000 product grant from TestOut Corporation for their LabSim product. Sullivan University was one of only 20 academic institutions nationwide receiving the grant. The LabSim allows students to use platform simulations to learn key concepts before practicing on live systems. The grant covers CompTIA, Microsoft, Cisco, and other certifications and technologies.

Great benefit for students

The improvements and expansion will allow Sullivan students to have the same learning environment available from any computer with Internet access, whether on-campus or from home. This will enhance their ability to fully research, experiment and explore in one of the most comprehensive technology learning labs available in the nation.

Sullivan’s IT Academy Director receives award

Congratulations to Don Justice, Director of Sullivan’s IT Academy, who was recently named the 2008 recipient of TenX Technology Award. Technology Network’s (TenX) mission is to advance technology in the greater Louisville region. The organization annually recognizes individuals and organizations for outstanding achievement in technology-intensive projects or initiatives. As the Director of the IT Academy at Sullivan University, Don Justice’s leadership has made a noticeable impact on the technology work force of Greater Louisville. Each year, at least 150 stu- dents graduate from Sullivan University after completing a curriculum set up and directed by Mr. Justice. He also guides graduates through the job placement and retention process – support that has influenced the productivity of many companies in Louisville and nationwide.

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