Sullivan Paralegal student is in the winner’s circle

Sullivan student, Patrick J. Johnson, is a true winner on and off the track. A professional jockey for 27 years, Patrick will soon graduate from Sullivan with his Bachelor’s in Paralegal Studies and plans to enter law school in the fall. It’s been an interesting journey from the race track to the court room.

“I’ve been a jockey for a long time,” Patrick has realized since 1980. Patrick graduated from Daviess County High School in Owensboro, Kentucky and was torn between college or becoming a jockey. “I had watched Angel Cordero on Bold Forbes and Steve Cauthen on Affirmed win the Kentucky Derby and had a huge desire to become a jockey,” Patrick said. Patrick was raised on a farm; because of his size and upbringing, several friends and elders supported his dream.

Patrick went to Churchill Downs in 1977, and worked on the Kentucky racing circuit. He started as a hotwalker, then a groom, later an exercise boy, and in 1980 paid his dues to become a jockey. Along the way, he earned an Associate’s degree in Paralegal Studies at Daymar College in Owensboro. Since acceptance into the school, Patrick has been on the forefront.

As far as balancing racing and his education, Patrick doesn’t consider it a problem. “I believe I have to dedicate myself to avoid the challenge is compounded if the mathematics, such as Statistics, is often called Introduction to Statistics and it is meant as more than a slip of the tongue. This course, required in a number of fields of study, is the class that many students dread, and wish they understood but fear to plunge into beginning the work of understanding.

According to Professor Mel Kuhbander, the subject matter is full of common sense. According to Kuhbander, students come to this course, usually fairly fresh from College Algebra, and think they have to learn a bunch of formulas or figure out ways to take the information in a problem and find a formula that fits. Many of the problems are presented in a narrative form and students, by large, have a fear of so-named word problems. Consequently, they shirk from the task instead of actually sitting back and enjoying what is being revealed. For what is being revealed are the “secrets” to polling. How do they determine that margin of error that is referenced when, say, the Bluegrass poll reports on how Kentuckians think about a candidate? How can they make the conclusions that they do when they only interview 720 people? Not only are these topics explained, but students are presented with the actual questions used in polls.

Statistics, for some students, has been a bane in their education career. It need not be. Learn to take surveys, interpret results, simplify data so others can understand and read reports that talk about strange things such as a 95% confidence limit. All of these topics are discussed in class where Dr. Kuhbander has a way to make them easier to understand.

Reknown chef participates with a Sullivan International Cuisine class

Chef Katie Payne’s CSC. International Cuisine class had a wonderful treat when Chef Peng Looi came to spend the day and cook some of his favorite dishes from his homeland, Malaysia. Beef Rendang and Grilled Fish in Banana Leaf are two of the dishes that were prepared. Chef Looi is well-known to the Paralegal students and professionals in downtown Asia and August Moon. He is well-known in international circles and has traveled the world demonstrating and competing with the exotic and spicy flavors of China and Southeast Asia. Chef Looi says he loves to teach (he has a degree in Civil Engineering) and has several Sullivan students serving their internships in his restaurants.