Sullivan alum is a real geek!

Left to right, Patrick Mann, Bobby Bailey and Sullivan alum Erik Eckel are owners of Louisville Geek, LLC.

Can a Sullivan education help you think today’s technology? Just ask Erik Eckel ’99 who earned his Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) certification from the university.

“Several Microsoft education options were available to me when I chose Sullivan,” Eckel said. “I felt Sullivan’s study program, small class sizes, concentrated study with hands-on laboratory training and knowledgeable professors would make a difference.” They certainly did. Not only has Eckel become a sought after expert and journalist in the technology field, writing and editing for such media platforms as CBS Interactive, O’Reilly Media and others, he is also a Managing Partner for Louisville Geek, LLC.

Eckel recently merged his own technology franchise, Computer Troubleshooters, with Louisville Geek because, he says, “it had grown beyond its capacity to be successful in the community.” He noted the merger proceeded smoothly because other co-owners, Bobby Bailey and Patrick Mann, strongly emphasize building long-term quality relationships with small business owners.

“The technical education I received at Sullivan University, and subsequent Microsoft certifications, certainly helped prepare me for the success of Louisville Geek,” Eckel says. “The structured classroom environment, knowledgeable professors and hands-on training made a world of difference.”

Sullivan’s intense training paid off

Erik attended classes evening three nights a week. “While the schedule demanded prioritizing my class work for four years based on my economic situation, it was just what I needed,” Eckel stated, adding, “I continued working full time while attending Sullivan. The pay off was immense. And, that’s exactly what I was seeking. My hard work, and the commitment Sullivan University made ensuring my education was complete, paid off. Even today, I continue leveraging the skills and expertise I learned in my Sullivan classes.”

Education is the best investment

Erik said that he always felt that any and all investments in education are the best investments one can make. “I remember when I first came to Sullivan to meet with an advisor and learn more about the College of Technology’s program. A motivational sign stated “Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.” I’ already had some success working in the communications industry, but I felt I’d hit a dead end. Sullivan’s Microsoft program definitely played a crucial role in helping me progress through the management ranks and ultimately achieve the goal of owning and operating my own business.”


Top students earn Bachelor’s scholarships

For two very fortunate Sullivan students, their Bachelor’s degree is tuition-free. The Board of Directors of Sullivan University annually awards two full tuition scholarships, one for a female and one for a male student who are graduates of Sullivan’s associate degree programs and who want to continue their education towards a Bachelor’s in Business Administration.

Katie Peterson, left earned her Associate degree in Business Management and stated that she “was so honored that my hard work and dedication was being rewarded in such an amazing way. I chose Sullivan because of the small class sizes, local reputation, and the ability to take all courses required for my degree in the evening. I never imagined my experience at Sullivan could be so rewarding. I am definitely thankful I made the decision to enroll!”

Baccalaureate winner Stephen Prather pictured below received his Baccalaureate degree in Culinary Arts at Sullivan’s 2009 Spring graduation. Stephen stated that he “intends to use the Bachelor’s in Business Administration degree to further not only Chef Steve Catering, but to expand my community service efforts as well. I plan to continue working in my education by pursuing a MBA and possibly a Ph.D as well.”

Editor’s Note: After graduation, the University recognized Stephen’s history of community service and honored him with the A.O. Sullivan Award for Distinguished Service.

The appeal of Sexual Wellness

Approximately 600 people attended the Appealing Sexual Wellness Fair co-sponsored by the Sullivan University Wellness Center and the university’s Health Services Department. It was exciting to offer this program at a time when college health professionals are declaring the need to offer sex education beyond high school. The Louisville Department of Public Health and Wellness recognized the event by announcing it on their website, as did Louisville.com. Louisville’s newest Column- The Courier-Journal’s “Happenings Section,” and Velocity magazine posted it as well.

Something for everyone

Exhibitors provided information to foster appreciation for enjoyable and responsible sexual choices. Chief Instructor Kimberly Jones set up “Aphrodisiac Foods” next to Julies “Enticing Refreshments”: oysters, honey, almonds, chocolate. “Attraction in Action” and “Risk & Romance,” accepted two aspects of choice. Posture, exercise and appearance were demonstrated by Sunshine Wellness and Gold Bowl Consulting. The Volunteers of America were intent on preventing sexually transmitted Disease and infections. Colorful vials illustrated chakra energy in A Thousand Potals booth, where aromatherapy built upon phenomenons. Licensed Massage Therapists gave massages: Wolter’s Chiropractic under a “Sex & Stress” booth, Terry Kibbloski from the Sullivan faculty, and O’Neill’s Chiropractic under “Senior Sex,” which also presented research on older adults sexual needs and activity. A normal “Habits & Health” program was brought “Alcohol Abuse” by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Louisville, was situated between “Women’s Health Class” (Sullivan University Women’s Healthcare Clinic) and “Men’s Reproductive Health” (Dr. Benton from Baptist East Hospital).

Emphasizing “Healthy relationships” the Center for Women & Families sharpened awareness of signals which could lead to danger or determining appropriate response between intimate partners. “Sexual Realism/ Empowerment” engaged visitors in evaluating the way their body image affects their self-esteem: two mental therapists collaborated on this pod from Integrating Your Heart (Alison Johnson, LCSW) and Wesley House (Renée Campbell-Mapp, Ph.D.).

As Licensed Marriage and Family therapists, Sherry Steinbeck and Misha Stillwagon represented their professional specialty by sharing information from the American Association for Sexual Educators, Counselors & Therapists.

In the meetings of a partner over the internet, Sullivan Professor and Editor of Computer Times Terry Kibbloski, demonstrated the ways that Match.com and eHarmony function.

What’s next? Check out the next Wellness Center offering by logging on www.sullivan.edu/wellness_center under “View Upcoming Events.”

Sullivan is raising the bar on certifications

Sullivan faculty and staff recently took an exciting leap forward. First was the application to the Examination Institute (EXIN), the international accrediting body for the Information Technology Certification Examination. Sullivan undergone rigorous evaluation of the university and faculty capabilities and credentials resulted in the delivery of ITIL certifications, from the Foundations through Advanced Certificates. No sooner was the EXIN application sent, the team went on to work on the The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) pilot. Sullivan University is one of only 11 organizations chosen to participate in a pilot certificate accreditation program through ANSI.

What’s next? Sullivan University is becoming such an important part of education and training today, it only follows that a quality accreditation program is needed to keep the integrity of these important certificates,” said Tom Davison, Senior Vice President of The Sullivan University System. “Sullivan is thrilled to be part of this pilot project and is eager to begin gaining this important accreditation in the areas of certification programs we offer our students.”

For the pilot, Sullivan is submitting for certification National Certification and Administration Certificate program and the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Paralegal Studies. The University plans to pursue ANSI accreditation for all its certificate programs.