The Louisville Association of Paralegals (LAP) was recently welcomed on campus to conduct a special “Meet & Greet” event for Sullivan Paralegal Studies students. The event was well attended, with more than 20 students taking the opportunity to network with LAP leaders. The LAP has more than a 30-year history of supporting the paralegal profession and students in the local area. “It is very gratifying to see paralegal professionals taking out of their busy workday to come on campus and mingle with our students. It is even nicer to know that many LAP officers and members are Sullivan graduates,” said Nick Riggs, Director of Legal Studies, adding, “The LAP is one of the most community-minded organizations we have had the pleasure to work with over the years.”

Alumni were present

Among the LAP members in attendance were LAP President Pam Byerly. In 1998 Sullivan Paralegal Studies bachelor’s degree graduate who is a paralegal with the law office of Dinmore & Shah, LLP, and Sarah House, a paralegal with the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office. Ms. House is a 2008 Sullivan Paralegal Studies bachelor’s degree graduate.

Rhonda Lobb is a well-deserving Sullivan student and has been recognized with a partial scholarship to earn her Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Paralegal Studies (BPLS). Rhonda graduated with her Associate of Science Degree in Paralegal Studies last year. She noticed on the Sullivan website that a scholarship was available to qualified students to continue their education toward their bachelor’s degree in Paralegal Studies.

The scholarship application went to Professor Nick Riggs, Director of Legal Studies, who presented it to the BPLS Scholarship Committee which consists of members of Sullivan’s Legal Studies Advisory Board that includes practicing paralegals, attorneys and judges from the Louisville area. “The committee takes applications seriously. It was easy to see that Rhonda was certainly deserving of the scholarship, and it was my pleasure to inform Rhonda that she had been awarded the scholarship,” Riggs commented.

According to Rhonda, the scholarship was meaningful because it brought her dream of achieving a Bachelor’s degree within reach, both financially and academically. Students who wish to continue their bachelor’s degree in Paralegal Studies can obtain information about the BPLS scholarship by contacting Nick Riggs at rigggs@sullivan.edu.

Students who attended the LAP Meet & Greet are, left to right, seated: Karla Edlin, Sarah Conboy, Danielle Havill, Director of Legal Studies Nick Riggs, George “Buddy” Ray, Lori Callis, Kristi Nichols, Clarissa Nifong, Deborah Borden, Whitney Myers, and Amanda Gooch. The backdrop for the picture also provides a snapshot of different books. This allowed us to spread our books out on blankets and soak up the material as well as some sun.” Apparently the students agree. Lori McCarter said, “I really enjoyed having class outside! It was a nice change from our room in the library. The weather was incredible and cleared away the cobwebs in my brain so that I could really focus on Ms. Gaither’s riveting lecture.” Jessica Myers added, “We had cookies, blankets, and an in-depth discussion of pleadings while birds chirped in the background. Going back to school is better than I ever imagined.”

Rhonda Lobb

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The Student Sullivan Paralegal Association (SSPA) had a “splashing good time” sponsoring the Dunking Booth at the annual Sullivan Luau, generating $115 for the club. This year’s dunkies included Linda Kuhnerbeck (Culinary Arts), Rush Grasci (Admissions), Chef Instructor Allen Almon (Culinary Arts), Nick Riggs (Legal Studies), Kristi Nichols (A La Carte Café), Glenn Pitchford (Admissions), Kim Richardson (Student Services), Chef Billy Graham (a La Carle Café), Glenn Pitchford (Admissions), David Wiseman (IT), and Instructors Chris Hughes (Justice & Public Safety), Anna Stamp (General Studies), and Richard Rott (Business). “Without the willingness of the volunteers to be targets and to get wet, SSPA would not be able to provide some interesting opportunities for its student members,” said Nick Riggs, SSPA sponsor. SSPA uses the funds collected through various activities like the dunking booth to fund field trips and to make donations to charitable causes. Past field trips have included visiting the state capitol in Frankfort to see the Kentucky Supreme Court in action. The Ronald McDonald House in Louisville has been the most recent recipient of SSPA’s contributions and people power.

SSPA continues to sponsor the collection of tabs from soda cans, etc., in small containers located around the campus. For those collecting tabs at home, drop off the tabs at the front counter in the faculty center and request that the tabs be given to Nick Riggs. All collected tabs are periodically delivered to the Ronald McDonald House, to fund housing for families of sick children who are hospitalized away from home.

More Luau photographs are on page 12

LOOK WHAT’S NEW! Graduate School students and those pursuing a certificate in Conflict Management now have an organization geared toward them! The Conflict Management Association (CMA) is dedicated to enhancing the practice and understanding of conflict resolution. The program helps individuals learn techniques, processes, and strategies for managing organizational conflict in the workplace as well as in personal situations. If you are interested in more information about the CMA, please contact Dr. LaVena Wilkin, the faculty sponsor, at lwilkin@sullivan.edu

Conflict Management Association (CMA) was recently welcomed on campus to conduct a special “Meet & Greet” event for CMA members. Ms. Byerly stated, “All the accolades of the most community-minded organization we have had the pleasure to work with over the years.”

Students were present

Among the CMA members in attendance were CMA President Kristin Byerly, student; student Ben Martin; Pam Byerly, Paralegal, Dinmore & Shah, LLP, 1999 Paralegal Studies Bachelor’s Degree graduate and AP President; student Sarah Conboy; Nick Riggs, Director of Legal Studies. Ms. Byerly added, “The CMA is one of the most community-minded organizations we have had the pleasure to work with over the years.”

Students at the CMA Meet & Greet were, left to right, seated: Karla Edlin, Sarah Conboy, Danielle Havill, Director of Legal Studies Nick Riggs, George “Buddy” Ray, Lori Callis, Kristi Nichols, Clarissa Nifong, Deborah Borden, Whitney Myers, and Amanda Gooch. The backdrop for the picture also provides a snapshot of different books.

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Sullivan Student Paralegal Association (SSPA), Sullivan Library, and Sullivan archivist Jim Nolen, The Institute for Legal Studies has been spotlighted in the multi-section display case in the library. According to former SSPA president, Ben Martin, “The display was put together through ideas brought forward at SSPA meetings. There is no one theme to the display; it instead focuses on three things: 11 portraits in honor of the 11 students who are graduates,” said Nolen. “The SSPA event was a great way to converses with Paralegals working in different areas of the law about their experiences. There were also really good snacks, exactly the cookies I appreciated the opportunity to just hang out and chat.”

JESSICA MYERS, Paralegal Studies Student