Sullivan holds first alumni Meet & Greet

More than 40 graduates and guests attended a recent alumni Meet & Greet at Winston’s Restaurant on the Louisville campus. A number of classes, from 1984 to 2011, were represented. Attendees enjoyed refreshments provided by Juleps Catering and each received a backpack with alumni gear.

Chancellor Sullivan welcomed everyone and thanked those in attendance for working so hard to make their own dreams come true. He also let them know how proud he is of them. The Alumni Office encouraged them to keep in touch and share their accomplishments with the alumni office.

More outreach planned

The Alumni Office continues to increase its engagement with plans for similar get-togethers on the other campuses as well as new initiatives that are coming closer to fruition.

Sullivan alums are up to code!

Jill Hampton and Sullivan’s Medical Coding online program were a perfect match. A recent 2011 graduate Jill said she loved the ease that Sullivan’s online Medical Coding courses offered which “allowed the high-principles of working on assignments when I had the time and when I was more alert and more apt to remember what I was reading or studying.”

Revised national guidelines

We sent the inquiry about the discrepancy to the Centers for Disease Control and received confirmation that Jill was correct and the guidelines would be changed to reflect the new update effective 10/1/2011. Properly speaking this discrepancy speaks to two of the qualities we promote in our coding program: attention to detail and critical thinking.

Made a career change

Jill was a great medical school graduate, many of the jobs that I have had to deal with customer service, attention to detail, and critical thinking, which I feel are important in the medical field, especially in coding. I decided to go with the medical field because I saw the opportunity for growth and the chances of not becoming unemployed as easily as the 2008 layoff that I experienced. I am an administrative assistant. I was hired as administrative work, several coding jobs and decided to find out what it involved.”

Intrigued by Medical Coding field

Jill learned that “Medical Coding is far more that just coding a symptom or diagnosis, it’s understanding the illness or disease involved as well.” She added that “I have always been interested in health-related issues and am motivated to learn anything that relates to being healthy or maintaining my own health. I think more people need to be aware of their own health and I can share what I know to help someone else, that’s great...it’s really all about collaborating and getting the job done right, sharing what you know so results are portrayed as accurately as possible.”

Versatile and challenging

Sullivan’s Medical Coding certificate program offers instruction in ICD-9-CM diagnosis coding and CPT procedure coding as well as comprehensive education in medical billing. The courses include medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, CPT and ICD-9-CM Coding, healthcare reimbursement and information technology. The program has added an introduction to ICD-10-CM Coding, the replacement system for ICD-9-CM, which will be effective 10/1/2013. Students completing the program will be prepared for taking a coding certification examination and will be eligible for working in facilities such as physician offices, hospital outpatient settings, and insurance companies.

Bright future ahead

Since graduation, Jill has been caring for her aunt who had rotator cuff surgery, the same surgery Jill had in 2008. “I wanted to help her have the best care and knew I could provide that and give her a good chance of recovery, knowing what to expect with therapy and the process involved. She is like my second Mom, who passed in 1998, so I want the best for her.” Jill is also studying to prepare for the Medical Coding certification examination on which she will take later this month.

Medical billing and coding is a vital part of the health care industry. Jill’s new career as a Medical Coder ensures that medical providers receive payment for services rendered and are able to keep the doors open by complying with government regulations and insurance policy guidelines to create accurate bills for patient visits. Her Sullivan education and attention to detail will serve her well!

Please keep in touch

by Hazel Matthews, Director of Alumni Affairs

Alumni engagement is building and growing! Sullivan’s Alumni Association has registered more than 38,000 hits on its web site. Are you part of the active alumni team? Do you want to know where your classmates are? Have you registered on their site? We have a number of activities that are coming up over the next few months. Be part of our graduate base and join today!

We are busy behind the scenes working to make the alumni experience better but we need your help. What kinds of issues are you facing that you think the Alumni Office can help you solve? We are looking into additional educational and informational networking events opportunities. What would you like to see?

Do you want to be in the news?

As a graduate, we expect that you are well on your way to being an expert in your field. Did you know that the Alumni Office routinely receives requests from producers, editors and journalists on short deadlines who want to know what you think? Let us know if you or your company want to be part of the Help A Reporter Out program. We want to share your good news with your fellow graduates and students. Do you know an alum doing something particularly interesting or different? Have you seen an intriguing outstanding achievements in his/ her profession? Have you seen an alum setting a positive example, either by philanthropy, business success and life, or showing a loyal commitment to Sullivan and their community? Call us at 844-8881 or email us at alumnioffice@sullivan.edu.

Anniversary Plans

2012 will mark the 50th Anniversary of Sullivan University and the Alumni Office is already hard at work planning ways to celebrate. Alumni, family, and friends are invited to join us for a 50th Anniversary Cruise to Alaska! Sullivan graduate Jamie Eubanks, Class of 1993, is handling the reservations. The cruise is set for June 10-17, 2012, aboard the MS Oostedam. In addition to the breathtaking scenery and unforgettable experiences, the trip will also be educational. Holland America will donate a portion of the proceeds to fund a scholarship for a graduate who would like to return to school, according to Ms. Matthews. Jamie and her husband, JJ Eubanks, have agreed to match the donation.

While alumni are certainly encouraged to attend, the cruise is open to anyone who wants to help us to celebrate the momentous year. Only a limited number of cabins are available, so call today. For more information, please contact Jamie directly at 877-849-4404 or email sullivanalumni@magicalvacationplanner.com.