



Commencement 2004

At commencement ceremonies all over the country famous respected and well loved people were honored by various universities for their accomplishments. Three such individuals were honored this year at Southern Utah University. All three honorees have strong ties to this unique southern Utah community and help us recognize the value of the University.

Former Utah Governor **Michael O. Leavitt** was selected to deliver the commencement address. Dispensing gems of wisdom and advice Leavitt shared five lessons he has learned since leaving SUU. The first is "What you have learned here at SUU is relevant and it will become more relevant everyday." Secondly, "Treat people well along the way, because they'll cover your backside later." The third: "Change comes in unexpected ways, but change does come. The changes in our lives are what define the outcomes of our lives." The fourth lesson is to always play forward. Leavitt said, "Those who can anticipate what's occurred and adjust most rapidly in order to adapt to the new situation, are what defines great players and great teams." He also added that, "If you make a mistake don't sit and think about it...move on." Lastly, Leavitt said, "Don't ever be afraid to skate the performance of your life..."making reference to Gold Medalist Sarah Hughes winning performance at

the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Born and raised in Cedar City, Michael O. Leavitt is truly a son of southern Utah, and just as much, a son of SUU. He earned his bachelor's degree from then-Southern Utah State College (SUSC) in economics and business in 1978. Nineteen years later, SUU was honored to bestow upon



Michael O. Leavitt

Leavitt an honorary doctorate degree of Humanities during the Centennial Commencement celebration in 1997. Although his residential address has changed dramatically in the last few months—from Salt Lake City to Washington, D.C.—Leavitt remains a stalwart and enthusiastic supporter of SUU and its programs, making frequent visits

to campus to endorse and participate in events like the Utah Summer Games, the Utah Shakespearean Festival and the Utah Rural Economic Summit.

Last November, Leavitt was sworn in as the 10th Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to leading the Agency, he served as Utah's 14th governor. Armed with foresight in planning for future development, Leavitt took advantage of the tools of advanced technology in programs like, "21st Century Communities," "Envision Utah," and "Utah: Where Ideas Connect." As governor, he proved to be a national leader on homeland security, welfare reform and environment management. Six public policy analysts ranked Utah among the best-managed states in the nation. Leavitt led Utah through the 2002 Winter Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City which were recognized as the most environmentally-sensitive Games ever.

Leavitt has maintained three goals throughout his public service: to leave things better than he found them; to plant seeds for the next generation; and to give it all he has. Michael and his wife, Jackie, (also an alum of SUU), are the parents of five children.

Gerald R. Molen is an Academy award-winning producer who has distinguished himself in the

motion picture industry during a career spanning nearly half a century. In addition to *Schindler's List*, his credits as producer include *Hook* (1991), *Jurassic Park* (1993), *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (1997), *The Other Side of Heaven* (2001), *Minority Report* and *The Legend of Johnny Lingo* (2002). He has also worked on an extensive list of other films including, *Twister*, *The Trigger Effect*, *Casper*, *Little Giants*, *the Little Rascals*, *the Flintstones*, *Days of Thunder*, *Rain Man*, *Tootsie*, and *The Color Purple*.

In addition to his Academy award, he has also won: a Golden Globe Award, British Academy Award, Crystal Heart Award, Peoples Choice Award, Lifetime Achievement from Chapman University, Darryl F. Zanuck Motion Picture Producer of the Year Award, and the Best Picture of the Year award from the New York Film Critics.

Now residing in Las Vegas after 50 years in production with his wife Pat, this native of Montana is currently serving on the Utah Shakespearean Festival's Board of Governors. He is also involved with the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation,



Gerald Molen (center) receives his honorary hood from Trustee Anne Judd as President Bennion looks on.

which strives to document and preserve testimonials and memories of Holocaust survivors; and devotes a great deal of time to organizations specializing in educational and humanitarian causes.

A Native of Southern Utah, **Sandra Buys, MD**, is the co-director of the Family cancer Assessment Clinic at the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, as well as the Medical Director of the High Risk Breast Cancer Clinic. She also is a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the

University of Utah's School of Medicine.

She has been caring for patients with all types of cancer since 1982 however, she specializes in treating breast cancers. Buys is currently working with the National Cancer Institute as the principal investigator on two large studies. One to determine the effectiveness of screening for certain types of cancer, and the other, a study of genetic causes of breast cancer.

Buys received her MD from Boston's Tufts University and returned to Utah for her internship and residency at the U of U. She later joined the staff there in 1984 and still lives in Salt Lake City with her husband and two children.

The blood of SUU runs strong through her veins; she is a granddaughter of **D.L. Sargent**, longtime and beloved professor emeritus of biology at SUU. And, her other grandfather, **J. Howard Maughn**, served as the director (president) of SUU (then-called Branch Agricultural College) from 1922-29. [S.U.U.](#)

Sandra Buys, (center) receiving her honorary hood from Greg Stauffer (left) and Trustee David Jeppson.

