



SUU President Steven Bennion with his wife Marjorie.

S U U P R E S I D E N T  
S T E V E N B E N N I O N

# REACHING *new heights*

“Consumers Digest’s” recent survey ranked SUU in the top 10 in the nation for quality and value among public colleges and universities. This is great news! Many of our alumni are likely not surprised with this finding. In terms of quality of instruction, a strong personalized learning environment, opportunities to participate in activities and develop leadership, SUU has historically provided an enviable learning and growth atmosphere. This latest news, however, highlights from an independent assessment the dollar value and academic quality of an education at Southern Utah University.

Each of us may have his or her own theories as to why this high

rating was attained. Let me share what I believe are only a few of the reasons:

- The University recently successfully completed several, impressive accreditations. Outside experts came to review SUU, placing their stamp of quality on selective programs and on the institution.
- The quality and preparation of our competent and caring faculty and staff at the University plays a pivotal role in this achievement.
- A survey of SUU students conducted on a national basis with many colleges and universities

shows examples of how our students view their experience. They exceeded the national average by a considerable margin of over 10% in the following ways:

- Faculty respect for students (10.3%);
- Concern for me as an individual (18.0%);
- College social activities (14.0%);
- Opportunities for involvement in campus activities (13.2%);
- Recreational & intramural programs (14.0%);
- Financial aid service (20.8%);
- Student access to computer facilities & services (20.7%);
- Library services (13.1%).

- The Tony-award winning Utah Shakespearean Festival is an icon on our campus, in our community, in Utah and brings thousands of




people to our campus each year.

- The gorgeous setting and beauty of our well-maintained campus buildings and grounds is an important factor in enhancing our learning environment;
- SUU has made considerable effort to offer quality academic programs and to selectively add new programs such as baccalaureate degrees in nursing, integrated engineering, hotel resort & hospitality management and masters degrees in business administration and fine arts administration.
- The University has achieved success in athletic programs with student athletes performing well both academically and athletically;
- A stimulating student activity program focuses on service, leadership and citizenship development.
- Our numerous alumni continue to succeed and contribute in business, education, the professions, government, science, agriculture, technology and in their communities.

n The new bachelor of science in nursing program at SUU has been awarded. This strategic program will meet critical needs in health care in southern Utah and throughout the state. The Board of Regents approved the program in December and then in April endorsed the University's proposal to start the program in the fall of 2004, instead of a year later. In order to accommodate students in clinical training cohorts of reasonable size, a class of 20 students will be admitted each semester or a total of 40 per year. The efficient curriculum will enable each freshman starting with a nursing objective to finish the program in four years or 122 credits. The faculty who have taught in the Weber program

offered on our campus for the past 28 years, will continue as the faculty of the SUU BSN program. In addition, **Dr. Karla Dalley**, has been hired as chief nurse administrator for the program. **Donna Lister** will continue as coordinator and department chair of the program. The new SUU Nursing Department will be located in the College of Science. This program has garnered wonderful support from the health care community, trustees, regents, legislators and many excellent prospective nursing students. Inquiries about the program should be made by calling (435) 586-7915.

n Dedication of the Eccles Living Learning Center will occur on Friday, September 24th. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. This beautiful new, apartment-styled living and learning center will house 300 students. The exterior and interior design are most attractive. There are no spare rooms this fall. Plan to come and join us for this wonderful celebration. The University is most appreciative of the generosity of the George and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation whose philanthropy made this project possible.

I hope you resonate with enthusiasm as alumni and friends of Southern Utah University about these important developments. Indeed, we all have a vested interest in this wonderful institution. And as different components of the University reach new heights, it is appropriate to quote an old axiom: "A rising tide raises all boats!" 

*The front entrance of the Eccles Living and Learning Center.*

