

SUU faculty receive awards from their peers

Each year a committee of faculty at Southern Utah University deliberate and choose colleagues to receive the honor of being named the outstanding educator, the outstanding scholar, or one of three distinguished educators. Selection is based on several criteria, including student evaluations, exceptional scholarly work and teaching effectiveness. The endorsement is echoed and supported by administration as well. The awards were made public at the 2005 commencement exercises on May 7.

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR



Matthew Barton

Matthew Barton, Assistant Professor of Communication, is regarded by students and colleagues alike as an exceptional teacher who inspires his students. A native of Beaver, Utah, Matt graduated magna cum laude from SUU in 1975. He received his master's and doctorate degrees, from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, respectively. His supervisor and colleagues regard him as a "gem," both for his remarkable teaching talents and for his admirable disposition in working with other members of faculty and administration. He is a two-time finalist for the Thunderbird Awards Professor of the Year honor, and consistently scores well above the 95th percentile on student evaluations. One student writes, "He is the most dynamic, educated professor that inspires students to greatness

OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR



S.S. Moorthy

and to achieve more from life." It is Matt's congeniality and teaching style that make him successful in the classroom. Another student states that in each class meeting, Matt "gives you something and you never walk away empty-handed. It is not just information either; you gain knowledge and experience because he makes sure that application-to-life is part of the educational process." Still, students point out that Matt "requires much of students" and is "tough," but they know how much he cares for them, too.

Satyam Sikha Moorthy, Professor of English, is known affectionately about Cedar City as "S.S." His homeland is India, but he has graced the classrooms of SUU since 1975, and is, indeed, a treasure of SUU's learning environment. He is a two-time Fulbright Scholar, specializing in

American literature. The Fulbright Scholar Program is one in which scholars are invited to guest lecture for a period of time in their area of expertise at institutions across the globe. In 1989, S.S. served as a Fulbright Scholar at Sanaa University in Yemen. He also was a Balkan Scholar at American University in Bulgaria in 1997. In 2002, he was a Fulbright Scholar at Moldova State University in Chisinau, Moldova. And, this summer, S.S. taught master students in Moldova about late American literary realism and naturalism. His scholarly articles have been published in academic journals in France, Spain, India, and the U.S. He has given readings of his poetry in Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, India, and throughout the U.S. He has been busy this past year making presentations on Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. He also scrutinized Indian literature at the annual conference of the English Department "The Secret and the Known" at the University of Bucharest, Romania. Four of his poems were translated into Romanian and published in "Limba Romana," a highly-regarded scholarly creative journal. S.S. is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Fellowship at Cornell University. Most recently, he was given the Utah Academy's "Best Paper in Letters" award.

D I S T I N G U I S H E D E D U C A T O R S



Carl Franklin, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, has been at SUU for just two years and already has had a profound impact on the quality of academics at the University. With more than 20 years experience in the practice of law, and law enforcement, one of his strengths is how well he brings his practical experience to the classroom. He has served as clerk to the Oklahoma Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals and as a prosecutor and private attorney. He is the author of several journal articles, as well as five books, two of which are about police civil liability, and computer and high-tech crimes. Students repeatedly praise Carl for how he motivates them to consider new ideas and employ critical thinking skills. One student comments, "You can have students read and repeat the information they are taught, but when you can...have (them) apply a concept they've learned, the professor who taught them how to do that should be commended. This is what Dr. Franklin does for his students." Carl also coordinates SUU's Paralegal Studies program and has been instrumental in developing the moot court learning tool in his department.



Deb Hill, Assistant Professor of Secondary Education, truly loves the process of education. The word "amazing" repeatedly comes up when students talk about what kind of teacher Deb is. One student says, "She really encourages independent thought and a hunger for learning." Another, comments, "I loved going to Deb's class, because I knew I was going to learn something new and exciting." Deb's teaching philosophy operates from her three principles of learning: 1) True Learning comes from the head, heart and body, i.e., the melding of experiential learning, intellectual connection, emotion engagement and physical application; 2) True Learning occurs in an environment wherein motivation is mainly intrinsic, and learning becomes its own reward; and 3) Learning is strategic. Deb is a mentor and facilitator in the classroom, about campus and in the community. She was a key individual in the College of Education receiving endorsement from NCATE, the most prestigious accreditation agency of educational units. She dedicates a large amount of time to the welfare of student-athletes as the University's faculty athletics representative.



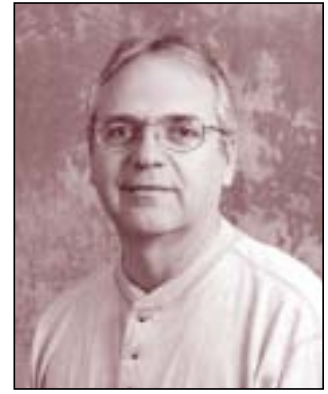
Linda Marriot's supervisor believes wholeheartedly that, based on student evaluations alone, she is a true example of the type of educator that the Distinguished Educator award is intended to represent. A Clinical Instructor of Elementary Education, she has been effectively teaching students and enhancing quality academics at SUU for 15 years. An advocate of literacy, she and her students have developed some creative community programs, like giving books to local doctors who agree to tell their young patients why they love reading and then give them a book. Linda and her students have also gotten books for children into the Women's Crisis Center; local banks; the pediatric wing at the hospital; and different organizations from New York to Taiwan to Mexico to South Africa. They also initiated a program with the Cedar City Police Department in which officers keep children's books in the trunks of their patrol cars to help soothe children in traumatic situations. One of her students says, "I feel so lucky to have been taught by such a wonderful lady and hope that I can someday be half the woman that she is."

Outstanding Staff Members Recognized at Commencement

Pat Gardner has been serving the campus community for more than seven years. She was born in Germany and gained her U.S. citizenship just a few years ago. As the program in the Public Safety Office has developed, Pat has been the “glue” that held things together and helped transitions move smoothly. She is appreciated for how gracefully she handles stressful situations. Her versatility, calm demeanor and her ability to multi-task and accomplish much are hallmarks of her work ethic. As the Department Secretary, her cheerful disposition and sense of humor makes a difference to all of her constituents. Always proficient in her responsibilities, it is obvious that she does much more than her job description outlines, through her caring about people. One co-worker comments that “Pat has always been very helpful and knowledgeable in all our dealings. She has a lot of responsibility but always has time for whatever you need.” One of SUU’s leaders states, “She has been a faithful employee and is an excellent representative for SUU.” Everyone knows she loves to shop ‘til she drops, especially for shoes. Also, in her leisure time, she’s become a fairly good pistol shot, so her co-workers have yet another reason to respect their office mate!



The Media Services Coordinator for the campus, **Brent Felix** works in the electronic classrooms across campus. Brent’s job is crucial to the success of students; he is very conscientious about maintaining electronic equipment in tip-top working order. Faculty and staff depend on Brent to maintain equipment in classrooms and meeting rooms so that they can do their jobs efficiently. Brent has worked on campus for more than six years. He is diligent in keeping the 70+ “smart classrooms” functional and is prompt in addressing any problems. His co-workers routinely comment on how much they appreciate his professionalism and cordial manner in executing his job well, and collectively exclaim, “Call Brent, he can fix anything!” Quiet, yet efficient in manner, Brent’s initiative and keen sense of responsibility make him an invaluable asset to SUU. Additionally, Brent volunteered to be the “keeper of the bells”; he is responsible for the hourly chimes from the top of Old Main, and for the chorus of bells we heard during the Commencement Processional. Brent likely does such a good job here because of his longtime love for SUU; he is a 1977 alumnus of the University.



Miss Utah Pageant filled with SUU students; four make top 10

Eight outstanding SUU students (both current and former) competed for the title of Miss Utah in Salt Lake City in June with four of the ladies being selected in the Top 10. Miss SUU, Desirae Ball; Miss Cedar Breaks, Lacey Griffin; Miss Deseret, Emily Hyde; and Miss South Jordan, Justi Excell, were all named “Top 10” finalists during the final night of competition at Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City on June 18th.

The other ladies who participated are: Britni Brown, Miss Iron County; Rosa Lee Thompson, Miss Garfield County; Natalie Miller, Miss Lehi and Casandra Averill, Miss Uintah County.



Emily Hyde, Britni Brown, Natalie Miller, Casandra Averill, Desirae Ball, Lacey Griffin, and Rosa Lee Thompson at the Miss Utah Pageant.