

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN

Outdoor Recreation in Parks and Tourism

New degree will provide students with an essential mix of classroom and place-based learning in some of the most magnificent landscape in the world

SUU will begin offering a new bachelor of science program in Outdoor Recreation in Parks and Tourism (ORPT) in Fall 2006!

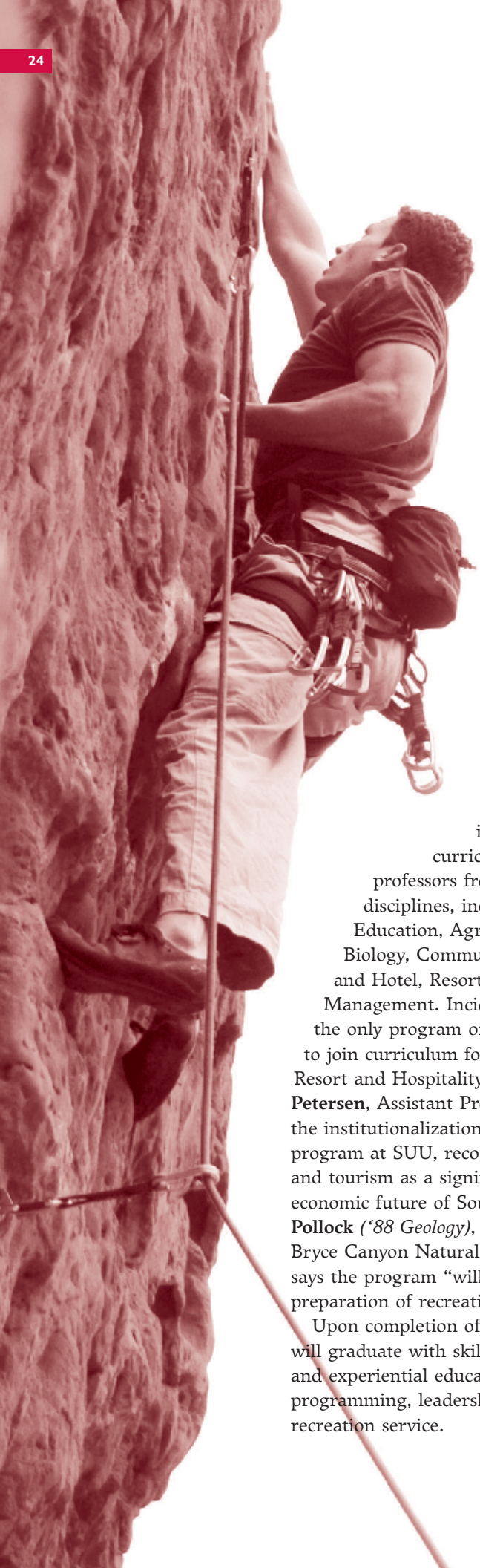
ORPT will be an interdisciplinary curriculum, taught by professors from 11 different disciplines, including Physical Education, Agriculture Science, Biology, Communication, Geology, and Hotel, Resort and Hospitality Management. Incidentally, it will be the only program of its kind in the state to join curriculum forces with Hotel, Resort and Hospitality Management. **Todd Petersen**, Assistant Professor of English, says the institutionalization of this kind of degree program at SUU, recognizes “recreation and tourism as a significant part of the economic future of Southern Utah.” **Gayle Pollock** (*'88 Geology*), Executive Director of Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, says the program “will be a catalyst in the preparation of recreation professionals.”

Upon completion of ORPT, students will graduate with skills in outdoor and experiential education, adventure programming, leadership and, tourism and recreation service.

Administered through the Physical Education Department, ORPT is designed to make students readily-employable in this burgeoning industry. Ideal job placement includes positions at state and national resource agencies, protected natural areas, outdoor recreation service programs, and commercial recreation enterprises. “This degree is the perfect blend of curriculum,” Pollock says, “to enable students to be highly marketable.”

The Occupational Outlook Handbook 2004 suggests that the overall employment of full-time recreation workers is expected to grow faster than the average of all occupations through 2012. Thus, the SUU's ORPT will fulfill, with deliberation, a desperately-growing industry need. **Gordon Topham** (*'72 Biology/Zoology*), recently-retired Deputy Director of the Utah State Division of Parks and Recreation (USDPR), concurs. He explains that it has been difficult to find qualified employees to fill professional positions, a situation that is made “doubly complicated” especially in the southern Utah region because there have been no nearby higher education programs available until now.

SUU and the ORPT program were made for each other because of those three key factors of location, location, location! “It’s certainly a program that is probably long overdue, but one we are very anxious to



be starting next semester,” **Dean O’Driscoll** (*’83 Communication/Physical Education*), Director of Marketing and Public Relations, states. “I believe this consummation of one of the greatest resources in southern Utah—the geography—right next to one of the greatest resources in southern Utah—SUU, will be one of bliss and meaning for quite literally, tens of thousands of constituents.”

SUU will interface with other substantial outdoor recreation facilitators in administering ORPT. An ORPT Advisory Committee will be formed that will include students, faculty, internship partners, alumni and representatives of the service industries, like the Utah Tourism Industry Coalition. Pollock believes that the creation of this degree is a proactive acknowledgement of Utah’s future.

“Graduates from this program will have the opportunity to become active participants with land management agencies and private sector organizations, in meeting the ever increasing demand for qualified ORPT professionals.”

This degree, too, will promote inter-institutional collaboration, which has already begun with Utah State University’s Institute

**“BOTTLED WATER: \$1; FULL
TANK OF GAS: \$50; STURDY
PAIR OF HIKING BOOTS: \$90;
BRYCE, ZION AND THE GRAND
CANYON AS YOUR PERSONAL
OUTDOOR LABORATORY:
PRICELESS!”**

GAYLE POLLOCK

for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism (IORT), to make sure all programming is consistent with contributing to the economy of the entire state. Petersen believes that “having a strong customer service aspect to the outdoor and recreation leadership training is an important, maybe even critical dimension to this program.” Pollock recognizes further that, “this degree provides an additional opportunity for students to be able to reside in southern Utah and become engaged in building the economy, strengthening local communities, and visibly articulating the mission of this great University.”

The SUU degree will give solid, ideal preparation for graduate studies in master programs like those of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and Recreation Resources Management at the University of Utah. **SUU**

Obtaining the SUU degree in ORPT will be an adventure unto itself!

The curricula will include comprehensive courses in the following areas:

Outdoor skills

Canyoneering and rock climbing, wilderness survival, backcountry travel and navigation, mountain biking, kayaking/canoeing, water/river safety, fishing, winter camping and survival, snowshoeing, and cross-country-skiing

Risk Management and Safety

Study of protocol and procedures and the laws affecting recreational services

Natural Resources Interpretation and Experiential Education

Teambuilding and visitor education programs



Other training

Natural history, geology of national parks, natural resources management, wildland recreation behavior, hospitality management, leadership, planning, communication, organization, theory and application, as well as technical skills