

# ALUMNI FOCUS

**Brian and Heather (Smith) Awsumb** ('01 *Political Science*; and '01 *Political Science and Communication*) are mid-way through a 27-month stint in Botswana with the Peace Corps. The couple's mission includes working with community leaders to advance programs charged with preventing mother-to-child-transmission of HIV, and coordinating home-based care and orphan support.

Brian works as part of a two-person team coordinating HIV/AIDS programs, activities and interventions in a rural district of 186,000 people.

Heather advises the local coordinator of the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) program, an intervention to prevent infant HIV infections during pregnancy, delivery and breast feeding. Heather's role also encompasses routine HIV testing, family planning and women's empowerment. She reveals, "My job is stressful because I know so much is at stake. HIV is largely a sexually-transmitted disease. But stopping its spread involves confronting cultural taboos, gender inequalities and economic disparities. Without a doubt, HIV is the greatest global challenge of the 21st Century."

Brian, who was named an Outstanding Scholar at SUU, adds, "In Botswana, HIV/AIDS is devastating families and communities. Even if people are not infected by HIV, they are affected by it. A lot of the focus now is on the treatment, care and support of people living with AIDS and the growing orphan situation. While these are important, I am working to revitalize prevention measures to ensure that the future response to HIV/AIDS will be sustainable."

Brian and Heather were married in 1999.

Both competed for the speech and debate team at SUU, where each won national championships in their respective events. The couple has resided in Washington, D.C., since graduation. Heather was most recently a national spokesperson and lobbyist



for the Professional Airways System Specialists. Brian served as a legislative assistant on the professional staff of U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY), specializing in environmental policy. They both plan to complete master's degrees in public health following their Peace Corps commitment. Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Emory University and Tulane University are at the top of their lists. Eventually both would like to work in health management and promotion in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, or in underserved communities in the United States.

The couple maintains a weblog at [www.botsblog.com](http://www.botsblog.com) on which they share details about their Peace Corps experience in Botswana.

**Michael Broadhead** ('95 *Psychology*) is achieving notable success with Southwest Airlines, most recently with his appointment to the Executive Board of the Transport Workers Union Local 556—a position in which he will represent more than 1,500 SWA flight attendants in



Phoenix—the largest base for the company. A self-proclaimed "Aviation Geek," Michael worked for America West Airlines before becoming a full-time student at SUU in 1992. Since graduating, he has been employed with Southwest Airlines. He is described in a spotlight article in the January 2006 edition of *Unity* magazine as a Jack-of-all-trades, performing every duty from shop steward to member of the Board of Adjustment. News of Michael's selection to the TWU International Convention was featured in the October 2005 *Unity*. Michael says of his experience at SUU, "I loved my time at SUU and consider it the right choice and an integral and very successful stepping stone in my life." He says that each time he flies over Cedar City, he can easily spot the campus from 39,000 feet and always tells his passengers that "we are passing over Cedar City."

**Dusty Rhodes** ('99 *Biology/Zoology, Chemistry minor*) is President/CEO of Pro Look Sports Corp. in Utah County. He describes himself as "a self-titled soccer dad and armchair quarterback with no actual skills." Given his scientific major in college, Dusty says he doesn't have a clue what he's doing in business, but he's surrounded himself with a brilliant office staff, efficient factories and savvy sales reps. Pro Look Sports is gaining considerable market share every year; last year, it ranked 199th on the "Inc. 500" list with an annual growth rate of 176 percent. "What better job could I

have?" Dusty rhetorically inquires. "I'm working in the sports industry with my friends and making a lot of money doing it. Well, I guess I could own the Red Sox...that would be perfect!"

**Lisa Sanders** ('98 *Elementary Education*) has received the "Granite Education Foundation Excel Outstanding Educator Award" recognizing her excellence in teaching as a 1st grade teacher at Crestview Elementary in Holladay, Utah. Nominations for the award come from parents and students. Once she was nominated, Lisa then submitted information to a district committee—a group which made spot visits to the workplaces of the nominees to observe their teaching technique and effectiveness. Granite School Districts employs 6000 teachers, and 1200 were nominated for the award! Twenty finalists are selected for observation, with just 10 receiving awards. Lisa received her award on May 4, 2006, at an elaborate banquet. She won \$1000 for her school, \$1000 for herself, a sculpture art piece and a day planner.



**Jaime White** ('94 *Psychology, Physical Education minor*), was recently named the 11th head women's basketball coach in Northern Colorado history. One of Jaime's new colleagues stated, "We are very fortunate to have a head coach with the caliber of Coach White to join our staff. She has built a championship program before and knows the competitive landscape of Division I women's basketball." Jaime says, "I'm looking forward to building Northern Colorado into a great program that will compete well in the Big Sky Conference. I think we can be competitive immediately." Jaime was head coach at Snow College in Ephraim, Utah, for five years. She led the Badgers to a 107-50 record and back-to-back Scenic West Athletic Conference Championships in the 1999 and 2000 seasons. She was named the 2000 Scenic West Coach of the Year and 2000 Snow College Coach of the Year. After SUU, Jaime went on to earn her master's degree in instructional technology from Utah State in 2001.



## A former classmate and friend is looking for you!

Steve Kinlichee is looking for **Tyler Anderson**

George Stephanos is looking **Doug Berry**

Beth Carr is looking for **Kori Bishop**

Donna Kimball is looking for **Shannon Comp**

Alexandria (Rawson) Glazier is looking for **Aiko Fujino**

Tori Stratton is looking for **Victor Gold**

Kami Alred Ekens is looking for **Kerrie Henry**

Nick Oveson is looking for **Amanda Ivanson**

Ann Marie Nicholson Gardner is looking for

**Anne Ardelle Jorgensen**

Julie Rowell Paulsen is looking for **Rosanna Gurr Kerr**

Emily Munson is looking for **Melody Boyer Litton**

Karen Fricke-Pesuitch is looking for **Marvin Mayes**

Garr Roberts is looking for **John Paulk**

Nancy Louthan is looking for **Kristina Rees**

Susan Porter is looking for **Charmaine Sims**

R. Dean Thomas is looking for **Suzu Taylor**

*If you're one of the individuals below who is being looked for by one of your ol' classmates, you can find out how to contact them by going to*

**<http://www.suu.edu/alumni/update.html>** and clicking on the *Classmate Connector link, and then the "Is Someone Looking For You?" link.*

*We've gotten so many requests from alumni looking for alumni, we are unable to print them all here. So be sure to find out if someone is looking for you by going to the online Classmate Connector directory that lists all requests we've received in detail.*



*We love to hear about reunion stories, so please share yours!*

