

ALUMNI FOCUS

GALEN ROSE

'77 zoology/chemistry & student body president

Galen has been on quite the adventure since graduating from Southern Utah University. Originally planning to go on to dental school, Galen decided a career in education would suit him better. He first worked at SUU as the acting director of admissions, in which he recruited and worked with School Relations.

After leaving SUU, Rose earned a master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Utah. Galen and his family then moved to Portland, Oregon, to become the vice president of academic services for Columbia Gorge Community College.

A few years later, he accepted a new challenge as the director of organization development of health care for the Mid-Columbia region.

Galen has since become director of engineering for the health care of the Mid-Columbia region and looks forward to his job each day. While working in these jobs, he earned a doctorate in educational leadership at Portland State University.

Galen said he would not be where he is today without his SUU experience.

"It was the right blend in order for me to get involved and make a difference, as well as being the right combination of people, location, and environment," he said.

Galen and his wife, **Regina**, still reside in Oregon and are the parents of three children – two of whom currently attend SUU.



LARRY ELLERTSON & LINDA ELLERTSON

'72 accounting, '70 elementary education

Larry is serving his first four-year term as a member of the Utah County Commission. Elected in 2005, Larry is responsible for numerous areas, including Agriculture Inspection, Extension Service, Personnel, Public Works and the Utah Valley Economic Development



Association in Utah's second most populous county.

After graduating from SUU, Larry began work for Haskins and Sells Certified Public Accounts in Phoenix, Arizona. He moved back to Utah and began a long-term career with Utah Power and Light as an internal auditor and later as Area Manager and General Business Manager, among other positions.

Before being elected to the County Commission, Larry served in numerous civic roles, including mayor of Lindon for nine years. He was chairman of several organizations, including the Utah League of Cities and Towns, Provo/Orem Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Utah County, Mountainlands Association of Governments, Utah Citizens Corps Council, and Edison Electric Institute of Customer Service.

In 2000 he was recognized by Utah's Lt. Governor as the Civic Volunteer of the Year.

For Linda Christiansen Ellertson, education has always been a passion. Upon graduating from SUU, Linda worked in Arizona's education system for four years teaching second, third, and fourth grades. When the Ellertsons moved back to Utah, Linda decided to become a full-time homemaker but kept her finger in education by volunteering in her children's classrooms.

She returned to full time teaching in the fall of 2006 as the computer specialist at Fox Hollow Elementary School in Lehi. Linda enjoys children and says she caught the teaching fever as a child from her aunt who was a teacher.

The Ellertsons value their experience at SUU and are appreciative of the opportunities they had to be involved and for the hands-on approach of the faculty.

"We were recognized as people and not numbers," Linda says. "The instructors know who we were and cared about us. We could talk to our professors, and they were and still are our friends."

Larry is originally from Mona, and Linda from Central Valley, Utah. They have been married for 37 years and are the parents of five children and eight grandchildren.

BRANDON SPEVAK

'94 communications/
music minor

Brandon took a shot and has scored big in life. After graduating from SUU, he accepted a job working for the Utah Jazz in ticketing. He said that it was an entry-level job, which disappointed him a little because after all he was a college graduate, but for Spevak that soon changed. Brandon was promoted from Ticketing to Box Office Manager to



the Delta Center Venue's Marketing Manager.

In other words, he would be in charge of all events taking place in the arena, including events like concerts and the Jazz games. A few years after that, he took a break from the Delta Center and worked with radio stations and as marketing manager for Thanksgiving Point. After the Delta Center became the Energy Solutions Arena, Brandon was offered another job, but this time as Director of VIP Services. This job entails taking care of every detail of the Solutions experience to ensure that VIPs' needs are met.

In recent years, Brandon has also become the Director of VIP Services at Franklin Covey Stadium, where he handles event operations for the Salt Lake Bees as well.

Asked about his time at SUU, Spevak called it "a natural fit." He said he is lucky to have had professors who provided him with an overall education like none other. Brandon has been married to his wife, **Janna**, for 15 years, and they now have three children.

**KELLY OLSON &
VALARIE OLSON**
*'96 education, '98
education & student
body president*



Kelly serves as Chief of Optometry at Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas. A recipient of the Army's Health Professions Scholarship, Kelly entered the Army at the rank of captain following graduation from Southern California College of Optometry in 2003. The fall of 2005 brought great change, as Kelly was deployed to Iraq with the 61st Multifunctional Medical Battalion.

He served his 12-month tour primarily in Balad (Camp Anaconda), but traveled via helicopter to outlying bases that did not have full-scope eye care.

In some instances he would arrive and have hundreds waiting in line for trauma treatment and routine exams. One highlight was traveling to Ramadi, where he visited with members of southern Utah's Triple Deuce, the 222nd Field Artillery Unit.

While in Iraq, Kelly spearheaded a volunteer program that provided ocular prostheses to soldiers and Iraqi civilians. Kelly made impressions of the eye socket with dental material, created a wax eye, then finally hand-painted an acrylic version. For the final fitting, he placed the half-circle, form-fitting prosthesis on top of a round ball that had been implanted during the initial surgery. The results were amazing and improved the quality of life for

his patients. Kelly describes the experience "as one of the most rewarding parts of being in Iraq." For his humanitarian service and going beyond his service requirement, Kelly was awarded the Bronze Star Medal by the Commander of the 61st MMB.

Valarie is primarily a work-at-home mother with a few "hobbies turned professions." She works part-time as a nationally certified group-fitness instructor, teaching step, yoga and hi-lo aerobics at a hospital-affiliated fitness center. She recently completed certification as a senior yoga instructor and has found a new passion in working with the aging population.

Valarie never envisioned being an Army wife and certainly not a single parent during Kelly's Iraq tour, but she has gained an empathetic perspective for Army spouses and single parents in general.

Both Kelly and Valarie have fond memories of SUU and enjoy sharing them with others in Manhattan, Kansas.

"Our experience helped us – a couple of small town kids – to see life's fullest possibilities while simultaneously keeping us grounded in our roots," Valarie says. "From Cedar City to the Little Apple (Manhattan's nickname) to Camp Anaconda, Iraq, we've only just begun. Where will life take us next?"

DAVID FADDIS
*'82 sociology/business
administration*



Captain David W. Faddis has been employed at SkyWest Airlines since 1986. He is currently the Director of Flight Training. He began his career at SkyWest Airlines as a line pilot. Since 1990, he has held many positions in management.

Among his jobs have been duties as Check Airman, Simulator / Flight Instructor on the SA-226/227, EMB-120, CL-65, Designated Examiner (FAA representative) on the Canadair Regional Jet (and previously the EMB-120, EMB-120 Flight Manager), Canadair Regional Jet Flight Manager, and Manager of Aircraft Operations.

Dave graduated from Southern Utah University with a bachelor's degree in sociology and business administration with an associate's degree in political science and a minor in social work. Dave participated in football while at SUU and broke several records returning punts for the Thunderbirds.

"Looking back on my years as a student athlete they will always be my fondest memories," he says.

Dave and his wife, **Stacy**, live in Cedar City and are the parents of four children.