

THE FUTURE IS RISING



EVENTS

TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 18

Grace A. Tanner Distinguished Faculty Honor Lecture • 11:30 AM
Jeff Elison • SUU Auditorium

THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 20

Inaugural Golf Tournament
11 AM – 4 PM
Cedar Ridge Golf Course
Four-person team scramble
Visit our website to reserve a spot.

Inaugural Convocation 7:30 PM
Festival Hall at The Heritage Center
Downtown Cedar City
Open to the public, seating on arrival

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 21

President Benson's Installation Ceremony • 1 PM
The Centrum at SUU
Open to the public, seating on arrival

President's Reception • 3 PM
Sharwan Smith Student Center at SUU
Open to the public

Celebratory Concert • 8:30 PM
The Goo Goo Dolls, sponsored by Garrett B. Gunderson
The Centrum at SUU
Open to the public
Centrum Ticket Office:
435.586.7872



President Benson with his wife, Debi, and their children, Samuel, 9, Truman, 6 months, & Emma, 10.



The Goo Goo Dolls perform Sept. 21. The concert is sponsored by SUUSA, Garrett B. Gunderson and Freedom FastTrack.

Inaugural activities to coincide with Homecoming

On the 21st day of September (with due respect to Earth Wind & Fire's hit song) Southern Utah University will celebrate a new future as the school installs its 15th president since its founding in 1897. **Michael T. Benson's** installation will take place at 1:00 p.m. in the Centrum arena as students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University celebrate SUU's many accomplishments.

Benson was named president on November 10, 2006, by the Utah State Board of Regents, and started working on behalf of SUU five minutes later, when he announced he would soon be kicking off a \$115 million capital campaign. He arrived on campus the next month to announce that he had already secured a \$3 million pledge to help fund the new Science Center Complex, and has continued at the same break-neck speed ever since.

SUU is now in its 110th year of providing personalized education in a private-like campus atmosphere. The theme of this inauguration, *The Future Is Rising*, is definitely a reflection of the University's direction under Benson's leadership. From the Carter Carillon that is rising out of the ground near the new Teacher Education building to the newly-organized President's Council which will surround and advise the new president in his tenure, things are changing on the Thunderbirds 133-acre home.

"I am honored to be part of a great tradition of education at SUU, and I look forward to doing all that I can to help build on the solid foundation that has been

cemented in place by those who have come before." said Benson.

The faculty, staff, students, emeriti and alumni are all eagerly planning the week-long inaugural celebration, showcasing all that makes SUU's education and community a success.

Inauguration committee co-chair **Dean O'Driscoll** said the faculty couldn't wait to get involved in celebrating recent accomplishments, the students have been eager partners in planning the celebration and the staff and emeriti continually ask how they can take part in this historic event. "An inauguration is truly a celebration of the University and all that makes it great." O'Driscoll added, "We have much to celebrate at this time in our school's history."

The inauguration will include a variety of events from academic symposia, showcasing the scholastic achievements of the stellar faculty to a nationally-renowned band ringing in the new era. There will be displays by virtually every division and office across campus and a reception where everyone will have a chance to meet and visit with the 15th leader of the school. It has been 10 years since this type of commemoration took place at SUU, when **Steven D. Bennion** was inaugurated in 1997.

Even more special in SUU's case, is President Benson's approach to inauguration. He has been working hand in hand with two student body presidents to cooperatively plan the event as part of this year's homecoming week festivities, allowing former students to join

their contemporary classmates in this historic celebration. Alumni returning to campus for traditional homecoming events are encouraged to take part in all of the Inauguration celebration events, which can be found on the University's web site at www.suu.edu/inauguration. Everything from the golf tournament to the Goo Goo Dolls concert is open to the public, and members of the "Thunderbird Nation" are invited by President Benson to join him in celebrating their University's continued success.