



Ben Davidson ('72), long-time associate professor of physical education at Southern Utah University, has been elected to the Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers Association (RMATA) Hall of Fame.

An athletic trainer for more than 35 years, Davidson's experience has ranged from service as the head athletic trainer at both SUU and at Weber State University, to former SUU track & field and cross country coach, to work with three United States Olympic teams.

For 14 years, he was the head athletic trainer for the Utah Summer Games.

A member of a number of national and regional athletic

Athletic trainer inducted into RMATA Hall of Fame

trainers' groups, he has been active in RMATA since its inception and currently is the organization's treasurer.

"RMATA is proud to recognize Ben in this fashion," said the group's president, **Kelli Sheehan** of Regis Jesuit High School of Denver.

"Ben is exceptionally knowledgeable in the field of athletic training and enjoys sharing his knowledge with his students, who are constantly challenged to achieve their full potential," Sheehan said.

Davidson has been at SUU since 1979, having graduated from the school in physical education in 1972.

He earned a master's degree in athletic training from Indiana State University in 1973.

At SUU, he is the director of the athletic training major and has also served as head track and field coach, producing four individual national champions over the years.

Active in the community, he

has been an integral member of several Cedar City committees in parks and recreation.

Winner of multiple awards in his field, he was selected by the National Athletic Trainers' Association as the 1999 "Most Distinguished Trainer."

The previous year, he was named Volunteer of the Year for the Utah Summer Games.

Sheehan praised Davidson's skills both as a trainer and educator.

"Ben is compassionate, highly skilled and confident in all that he takes on," she said. "He has a good work ethic and will stay until the job is done which exudes his dedication to his job, the field of athletic training and to his students.

"He has certainly contributed positively to the profession of athletic training," she added.

RMATA is comprised of athletic trainers at all levels of athletics in Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.

DEGREE

MASTERS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ADDED

A new era began on Friday, April 20, when the Utah State Board of Regents approved a new master's degree for Southern Utah University — the Master's in Public Administration (MPA). This new degree program will begin immediately, with classes starting this Fall semester.

"Getting a new master's degree is huge," says President Michael T. Benson. Former Provost Abe Harraf, then the school's top academic officer, was so excited that he stepped out of the meeting and started calling people back on campus to share the news with them. "We had to work for this one," Harraf said, "but it was worth it."

The MPA is a professional degree program that combines work from several related disciplines: Public Administration, Communication, Management and others. The conceptual and

analytical skills developed through the MPA curriculum are critical to the effective management of public agencies and programs. Contemporary public officials are required to make complex choices and implement programs and policies within difficult financial, legal, political, and organizational constraints.

In addition to the academic coursework, students may gain important experience in supervised field work and applied research, while a choice of emphases within the curriculum makes it possible to pursue intensive training in a specific subfield of public administration. MPA graduates will be uniquely prepared to understand the responsibility and accept the challenge of managing in the public sector.

The MPA is considered a terminal degree, frequently sought by professionals entering or pursuing a career in the public or nonprofit sectors.