

*Pondering Old Main's past, present and future.*

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# A storied history and a bright future



S U U P R E S I D E N T  
S T E V E N B E N N I O N

During the early weeks of this year, I have had many reminders of the tremendous students who attend and have attended SUU. As I visit Capitol Hill in Salt Lake to advocate the needs of our University, I have encountered five outstanding SUU student interns who are serving state legislators. These legislators enthusiastically volunteer how much they enjoy and appreciate these talented and hard working interns. Another legislator told me of her nephew who graduated from SUU and is now a successful dental student at Temple University in Pennsylvania. She reminded me of his leadership in starting a pre-dental club while at the University; I happily noted that SUU

is now in the top 100 universities in the nation in successfully placing students in dental schools.

I encountered another person who told me of his brother-in-law, a university alumnus, who is attending a Big Ten law school at the University of Illinois

With the public focus on national leadership and recent elections, I have also been reminded that alumni of SUU are making an important difference at the highest levels of our national government. Former Utah Governor **Michael O. Leavitt** served in the President's Cabinet as the EPA Administrator and has been recently confirmed to serve in one of the top Cabinet posts as Secretary of Health and Human Services. We have also seen Nevada Senator **Harry Reid** assume the pivotal role of Minority Leader of the United States Senate. Many more examples of the impact of SUU's graduates could be referenced from our alumni.

I am always pleased to share examples about the accomplishments, talents and character of outstanding

SUU students and alumni. It reminds me of the priority emphasis we have placed on student recruitment and retention at the University. We are making important progress on both fronts. There are stretching challenges that have been and are continuing to be addressed by the University as we have undergone belt tightening budget constraints. Our faculty, staff and administrators deserve high praise for their extraordinary efforts in continuing to build a high quality learning environment on our beautiful campus!

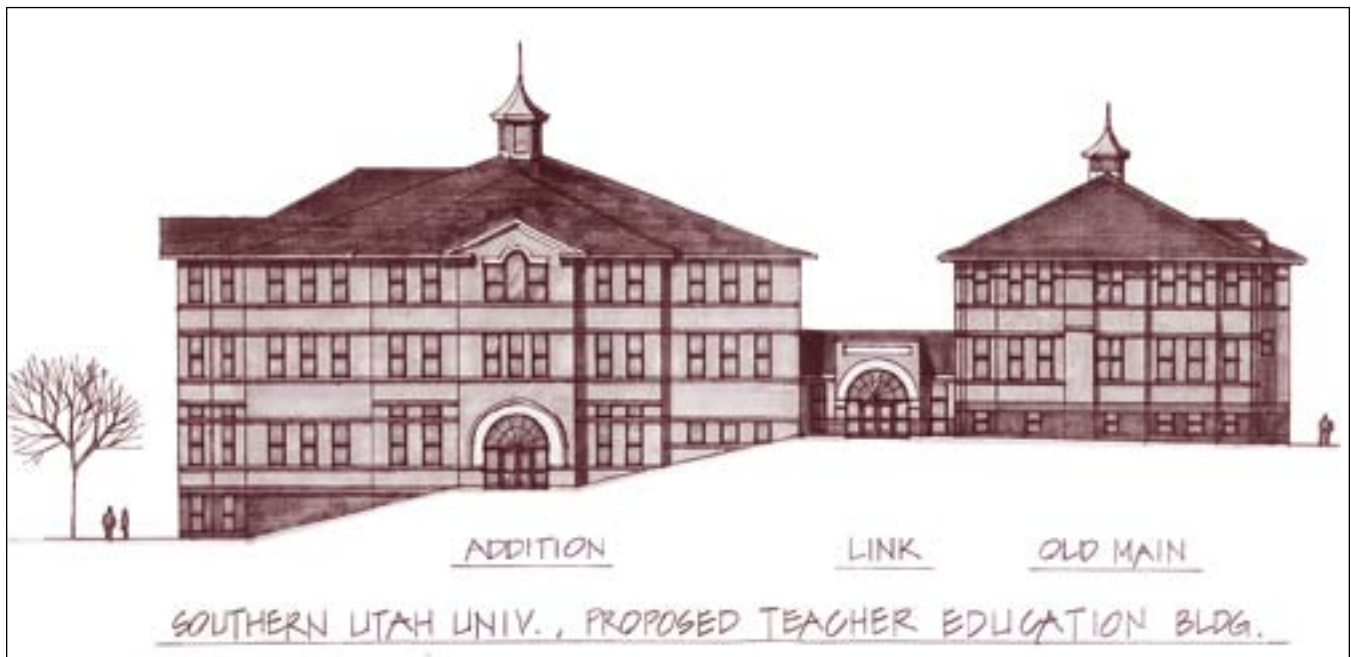
Access to higher education means providing opportunities to prepare for a promising future in an ever increasingly complex world. I am happy to report that enrollment was up 10.2 percent during the fall of 2004. We reached an all-time high of 6,672 students. Many factors are contributing to this enrollment growth: The completion of the very attractive Eccles Living Learning Center last summer with 300 new beds—the first new on-campus housing in the last 40 years; the creation of the office of

Enrollment Management with former student body president **Dr. Stephen Allen** as the founding executive director; the development of a substantial number of on-line undergraduate and graduate courses; the initiation of a University scholars day where top high school students and their parents visit SUU, meet with faculty and learn much about the University and its offerings; and the extensive efforts to market and better inform the public about Southern Utah University and its recent attainment by Consumer's Digest of a Top Ten ranking among public colleges and universities in the nation on the dual criteria of academic quality and economy as well as the Princeton's Review's rating SUU among the "Best in the West." There are many other factors, including the very important word of mouth from you, our terrific alumni and friends of the University, contributing to this growth.

The companion emphasis on student retention and continuing quality enhancement is likewise of vital importance at SUU. The

learning and personal growth opportunities afforded at the University are directly related to the caliber of our employees and their dedication. Longstanding quality academic programs coupled with the addition of a few new ones in nursing, integrated engineering and hospitality and resort/hotel management are central to the quality experience. Four excellent masters degrees and a proposed fifth one in communication are likewise important to the quality menu of SUU. A vast array of student participation opportunities, including the involvement in one or more of 100+ student clubs, enriches the student experience. Major attention has been focused on the Student Success Center which strengthens student retention through tutoring, advisement, orientation and a student success course for new students. The strength of our Honors Program and the addition of academic advisors for each college/school has likewise improved retention.

One of the enduring hallmarks of the University is the



Above: One of several conceptual designs being considered for the new Teacher Education building.

preparation of high quality teachers. Founded as a teacher training institution, SUU continues to provide a central focus on teacher education. As we continue the quest to obtain new and expanded facilities for teacher preparation, an idea was born to blend new and old facilities in this vital goal of preparing more high quality teachers to meet the burgeoning demands of student growth in Utah and beyond. Our plan is to house the administration, faculty and staff of the College of Education in a renovated Old Main while building a 21st century building west of it with modern classrooms and labs. Every prospective teacher will learn the story of SUU's heroic founders and their sacrifices and commitment to provide educational opportunity for those who followed them. The walls of Old Main will be filled

with pictures, prose and artifacts portraying this inspiring saga and add motivation to those who are planning a career in this important profession.

I invite you to help in this exciting dual project of Old Main preservation and the construction of a new Teacher Education building. We recently received the very good news that the Emma Eccles Jones Foundation committed to contribute \$1.5 million contingent on legislative funding. Shortly thereafter, I am happy to announce the 2005 Legislature approved \$10 million for the new teacher education facility. The strong support of legislators and many others made this approval a reality!

In addition, the state has also provided \$3 million for the renovation of Old Main to make it seismically safe and to upgrade utilities. The remainder of the Old

Main project is to do quality interior woodwork, pointing the brick and other efforts to make the building attractive and of deserved quality will cost an estimated \$1.5 million. As of this writing, we have raised \$500,000 of this amount with \$1 million more to go. ***We invite all alumni, friends of the University, employees and students to join in this great cause.*** Your contribution, whether small or large, will make a key difference. Please contact the SUU Advancement Office by e-mail at [larsenc@suu.edu](mailto:larsenc@suu.edu) or call (435) 586-7775 or write SUU Advancement, AD 312, 351 West University Blvd., Cedar City, UT 84720. This dual project will improve both access and quality to our wonderful University and the teaching profession. 