

ALUMNI FOCUS

LILLIE GARRIDO ('89 *Business and Technology*) is the owner of Soirée Productions Wedding Planning Studio & Library in Park City, Utah, where she resides with her husband, Rey Butcher, and their three boys Max (9), Ben (7), and Sam (4). Lillie recently celebrated the grand opening of the Soirée Studio & Wedding Library www.soireeweddinglibrary.com featuring vendors from all over the world. The Studio is home to White Couture Designer Bridal featuring bridal designs by top New York designers. Lillie's business has been featured in Utah Bride & Groom and Martha Stewart Weddings. She says that the secret to her company's success is happy customers because she and her "event designers and consultants believe in customer service. We pride ourselves with the ability to design and create the event each client is looking to host. Every event is unique in style."



SAMUEL FRANK GRANATO ('73 *Business Administration*)

Looking back on his life, Sam recalls that some of his greatest times were had while attending SUU. He served as president of the Sigma Pi Fraternity and of the Inter-Greek Council. After graduating, Sam returned to live in his birthplace of Salt Lake City. There he met his wife, Ann Wyss; they were married in 1974 and have four children: Frank, Krista, Alex and David. They are the grandparents of five grandsons and one granddaughter. Sam is the owner and CEO of Frank Granato Importing Co. Sam took over the family business after the passing of his father and has turned it into Utah's leading purveyor for authentic Italian and Mediterranean food. His strong work ethic has earned Sam great success both in his business and in other areas of the community. He has served on a number of boards including past president of the International Footprinters Association, Chairman of the Board of Beehive Credit Unions, member of the board of directors of the Arthritis Foundation, member of the Honorary Colonels Association, board



member of the Utah Microenterprise Loan Fund and Chairman of the Board of Health.

JULIE ANDERSEN HILL

('98 *Economics*) is an attorney in the Washington, D.C., office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom LLP. With nine domestic offices and 13 international offices, Skadden is one of the largest and most respected law firms in the world. Since joining Skadden, Julie has represented prominent companies like Fannie Mae, KPMG, Yahoo! and Coca Cola. She enjoys the challenge of working for high-profile clients, and she attributes her success in part to SUU. "I use the business and economics background that I gained at SUU every single day," she explains. While at SUU, Julie was involved in student government and business clubs. She was one of SUU's first graduates to be awarded an economics degree. After graduating, she attended law school at Brigham Young University. Julie is currently a member of SUU's Business Alumni Board and vice president of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the SUU Alumni Association. She and her husband, Michael Hill, are involved in efforts to develop internships in Washington, D.C., for SUU students.



MARK AND PATRICE HOLYOAK ('93, *Biology/Zoology*; and '92 *Elementary Education*)

Mark Holyoak is doing a lot of everything at Ashley Valley Medical Center in Vernal, Utah. He is the hospital's assistant administrator and oversees the clinical department, nursing staff and patient care. The area of patient care is particularly diverse as it includes services such as radiology, pharmacy, lab, physical therapy, surgery and the emergency department. Mark has been with AVMC for six-and-a-half years and is proud of the hospital's recognition as a Solucient Top 100 Hospital. After graduating from SUU, Mark earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Creighton, worked as a nurse manager in Las Vegas, and then moved to Salt Lake City where he obtained an MBA from the University of Phoenix. His prior full-time nursing experience was in surgery, ICU and emergency medicine. Mark is active in his community where he serves on the Board of Trustees



for the Uintah Basin Applied Technology College.

Patrice Pulsipher Holyoak is working full-time as a homemaker and mother to the couple's five children—three girls and two boys ranging in age from three to 13. Patrice is active in church and school and serves as a Cub Scout leader for an interface, multi-denomination troop.

Mark and Patrice love Vernal and say they are always excited to run into people from SUU who live in the Uintah Basin. "It is great to realize that we're not the only ones that received a quality education from Southern Utah University!"

ZAK JAMES ('02, Business)

is entering his fourth year as manager of the Sherwin-Williams store in Logan, Utah, where he is responsible for finances, inventory, staff and customer service. Under Zak's management, the Logan store saw a 33 percent growth in business leading up to the 2006 Christmas season. For his efforts, Zak was recognized at a national sales meeting and became part of the elite President's Club. Zak is one of several SUU alumni who work for Sherwin-Williams across the globe. He says the company likes SUU and its graduates because of the quality students they find on their recruitment trips to campus. The company loves the fact that SUU graduates are not afraid of hard work, are capable of reaching goals and provide the type of customer service that is a hallmark of Sherwin-Williams. While at SUU, Zak was a member of the cross country and track teams, and was the first runner in SUU history to qualify for the NCAA Division I Cross Country National Meet. He enjoys following both teams and is impressed with the caliber of athletes that compete for Southern Utah and the records they break each year. Zak believes the accolades the cross country program is receiving



are well-deserved and is excited to see the national spotlight shining on such a great program. He enjoyed his years at SUU and talks with people regularly about the University. "I was impressed with the community, the campus and with professors who went above and beyond what was required to help me as a student-athlete."

JACOB JOHNSON ('01, Business

Management) was recently promoted to the position of legislative assistant on the personal staff of U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch. Johnson will help the Senator implement his agenda on a variety of issues, including transportation, housing, small business, commerce, and Indian affairs.

"I appreciate everything Jacob has done for me, and I'm looking forward to what he'll do in this new position," Hatch said. "Jacob is a hard worker and has an extensive knowledge of Utah issues. Utahns can be proud of the job he's doing to help their state."

Johnson started working for Hatch as an intern in 2002. He became a staff assistant for Hatch when he was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, then came to the Senator's personal staff as a legislative correspondent, then legislative aide. In his service, Johnson has met with constituents and others on Hatch's behalf, helped draft speeches and press statements, and prepared the Senator for hearings and meetings.

"The last five years with Sen. Hatch have been exhilarating, and I'm excited about the new responsibilities he's given me," Johnson said. "It might sound a little corny, but I really do love serving this country and helping my fellow Utahns. I miss the mountains and the deserts, but Sen. Hatch's office makes a nice home away from home."

Originally from Castle Dale, Utah, Johnson and his wife Susan are expecting their first child late this year.



SUUPER COMMENCEMENT

The biggest event of the year is Saturday, May 5, beginning at 9 a.m. Please visit the Graduation Information Headquarters at www.suu.edu/graduation to learn about this year's Commencement activities schedule, important deadlines, the graduate's checklist, the Grad Fair, and much, much more.

This year's keynote speaker is Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.

