

Mark Barton moves to capital campaign

Mark Barton, Advancement vice president, will be stepping down from his position to be an assistant to SUU President Michael T. Benson.

Barton said the reason for the position change is to allow him to retire without interrupting Benson's capital campaign.

"I've reached retirement age and we're beginning a new campaign on this campus and it will take some time," Barton said. "I just wanted to finish a couple of projects and then retire."

Barton said his projects will include fundraising for a new alumni house.

"There will be three or four main things I'll be finishing up in the next couple of years," he said. "One of them is to raise funds for a new alumni house to be built, another is to work with the Utah Summer Games in some funding possibilities for ongoing support."

Barton said he will also be working with philanthropists.

"I'll work a lot with the relationships with donors in the Las Vegas area," he said. "We also have an opportunity to do some things with one of our alumni, (U.S. Senate Majority Leader) Harry Reid."

Barton was hired in 1982 to be in charge of student recruitment. In 2002, former SUU President Steven D. Bennion requested Barton be in charge of advancement.

Barton said most of his responsibilities in the five years he has been in the position have consisted of fundraising.

"My responsibilities have been to raise funds for the university in the capacity that they needed. We have raised funds for the Teacher Education Building and the renovation of Old Main, among other projects. We also

finished a \$43 million capital campaign that helped greatly in providing student scholarships. Fundraising of that nature is what we do."

Jeff Fisher, Director of Development, Foundations, Corp. & Special Projects, said Barton's primary concern has always been students.

"I've worked with him for two and-a-half years as a professional, but I've known Mark since I was a student 20 years ago," he said. "He loves people and he loves students. He has a genuine interest in the students."

Barton has made lasting changes at SUU, Fisher said.

"He founded the Governor's Honors Academy, Student Alumni Association and Presidential Ambassadors."



VP for Student Services Georgia Beth Thompson to retire

SUU Vice President for Student Services Georgia Beth Thompson has seen a lot of change since she began working for SUU more than 40 years ago.

Thompson, who plans on retiring in the summer after Spring Semester, was first hired at SUU in 1967 and has since worked in various positions both in and outside of the university.

Thompson spent her first years at SUU supporting women and women's groups during the five years she worked as Dean of Women—a position that no longer exists. Since that time, Thompson said attitudes toward women have significantly changed.

"People saw women in more traditional roles and more the concept that women would use their education as a backup," she said. "Most women would be in

the home as a wife and mother. Now I think the reality is that may still happen, but there is a whole sense that women's skills add in all kinds of fields."

For a time, Thompson left SUU to be at home with her daughter, though she occasionally taught classes in anthropology and sociology during that period. After her daughter reached middle school, Thompson returned to SUU in 1986 and again worked in Student Services.

Under her current job as vice president for Student Services, Thompson said she helps with the university's long-range planning and also helps coordinate and supervise work done in departments and auxiliaries that include Housing and Resident Life, Student Involvement and Leadership, Student Support

Services and the Bookstore.

After retiring, Thompson said she hopes to travel around the world to

places like Australia, the Gobi Desert and perhaps China.

Thompson served on the Cedar City Council from 2000-2004 and indicated she would like to continue her civic work. She is currently on the city's board of adjustments and will also be on one of the subcommittees for the general plan Cedar City will be creating.

SUU has already formed a search committee to find a replacement for Thompson.

