



■ **PAUL AND KAYDEE SHAKESPEAR** ('04 *Political Science/Spanish/VP of Academics*; and '04 *Public Relations/Chemistry/Student Body President*)

This dynamic duo has accomplished much since leaving their mark at SUU. After both serving in SUUSA student government, Paul jumped right into law school at Brigham Young University while Kaydee went to work for Infinity Marketing as an internet marketer. After a year of working, Kaydee decided to continue her education by working towards her masters at BYU.

The summer before the two received with their graduate degrees, Paul and Kaydee both headed to Las Vegas for internships. Paul interned with Smell & Willmer LLP, which is one of the top regional firms in the West. Kaydee interned with The Andre Agassi Foundation, a non-profit organization. In April of 2007, Paul graduated with his Juris Doctorate, while Kaydee graduated with her Masters in Public Administration. Upon graduation, the Shakespears headed back to Las Vegas where Paul began working at Smell & Willmer and Kaydee secured a job as the donor outreach coordinator at the Andre Agassi Foundation.

When asked about their experiences at Southern Utah University, they both commented on the level of involvement that any person could have on campus, as well as the learning environment with professors who truly care about

your future. Paul and Kaydee have been married since December of 2003 and just had their first child, a boy, on January 28, 2008.



■ **JEFF AND CHELSA JOHNSON** (02' *Masters of Accountancy* and 02' *Masters of Accountancy*)

Jeff and Chelsa started their professional careers with the CPA firm of Piercy Bowler Taylor & Kern in Las Vegas, Nevada, where Jeff worked with the audit department and Chelsa worked with the tax department. After four years in Vegas they were able to return to Utah where Jeff accepted a job with the CPA firm of Stayner Bates & Jensen in Salt Lake City.

Jeff was recently named Chief Financial Officer of Powder River Basin Gas Corporation, a revenue generating producer, acquirer and marketer of crude oil and natural gas properties. He continues to work as a manager with Stayner Bates & Jensen where he specializes in audits of companies in a variety of industries. When he is not working, Jeff enjoys spending time outdoors and with his family.

Since leaving Las Vegas, Chelsa works as a full time mom and still manages to have her own bookkeeping company on

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the side. They have two beautiful little girls, Kennedi (age 3) and Brighton (age 1).



■ **BRANDON AND KELLIE GARDNER SCHRAND** ('98, *English and '98, History*)

Brandon is coordinator of the University of Idaho's MFA Program in Creative Writing, won the 2007 River Teeth Award for his forthcoming memoir, *The Enders Hotel*. In addition, the University of Nebraska Press will publish Brandon's book this spring. *The Enders Hotel* recounts Brandon's childhood spent growing up in a historic boomtown hotel, café and bar in southern Idaho.

After graduating from SUU, Brandon received an M.S. in American Studies from Utah State University and his M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Idaho. Brandon has garnered other accolades for his writing such as the 2007 Willard R. Espy Award, the Wallace Stegner Prize and a Pushcart Prize Special Mention.

Kelli Schrand also works at the University of Idaho. She serves as the Program Advisor at the Martin Institute, home to the International Studies major and a research institute

for conflict resolution and conditions of peace.

Brandon appreciates SUU English faculty who always encouraged him, despite his sometimes lackluster performance. Kelli remembers homecoming festivities, particularly the parades, tailgate gatherings and dances. Both were involved in SUU's Greek system and loved the relationships that were formed through Sigma Chi and Alpha Phi. In fact, they still enjoy those friendships today.

Brandon and Kelli are the proud parents of two children: seven year old Mason and two year old Madeline.



■ **HAL ADAMS** ('89, *Elementary Education*)

Hal taught the fourth, then fifth, then sixth grades during his first three years of teaching. To increase parent involvement, Hal gave orphan sheep to the parents who attended parent-teacher conferences. The lambs were so important to the families that they insisted Mr. Adams remain their children's teacher for three consecutive years. These early years of teaching set the stage for a lifetime of service.

In 1994, Hal was honored with the Native American School Board Association Teacher of the Year

award. Shortly after, he moved to TeecNos Pos, Arizona where he began teaching seventh and eighth grade math and science, and led the school's fundraising and travel efforts to take students on a trip to Washington, D.C. each year. Hal's dedication to his students earned yet another teacher of the year award after seven years at TeecNos Pos.

Hal has been teaching at Grand County High School in Moab, Utah since 2000, and currently teaches history and driver's education, and coaches the debate team. Each year during spring break, Hal takes his students to debate competitions at Harvard, Columbia, Stanford and Northwestern. In June of 2007, Hal was named Grand County's Teacher of the Year. In October, he was chosen as the Utah State Teacher of the Year for 2008. According to Hal, the highlight of the award was that his father, Clemont Adams, who taught in Cedar City for 37 years, could be at the awards ceremony to share the experience with him.

All eight of Hal's great-grandparents' families were named on the statue of Old Sorrel in front of SUU's Centrum. In addition to his father's example, Hal recognizes his ancestors' sacrifices to help build the Branch Normal School as the reason for his success as a teacher. A longtime friend of SUU, Hal is proud his family's SUU ties continue today, reporting that all four of his children are also Thunderbirds.