

## Not Just Buildings

*SUU adds new graduate degree*

SUU added an eighth graduate program this Fall 2007 semester: the Master of Science in Sports Conditioning and Performance.

The program is designed for current athletic and fitness professionals looking to continue their education and increase professional advancement opportunities. As one of few such graduate programs in the nation, SUU ranks among the first to respond to an ever-increasing need for more qualified and informed coaches and trainers in public schools. According to SUU's Physical Education Department Chair **Rick Lambson**, "This program was inspired by the need of coaches and athletic professionals to make more consistent and informed decisions about safe and effective exercise programs for students and athletes."

Lambson is confident that as SUU succeeds, more and more schools across the nation will look to this program as a guide in creating similar programs. A majority of the new program is facilitated through online coursework, which makes pursuing the degree much easier for the program's target audience—current teachers and coaches who are interested in advancing their professional standing.

According to Lambson, 18 students were enrolled in the program last semester, and even more have joined the program this spring. The goal is to eventually have over fifty grad students from all over the country, additional faculty members, and for the program to be nationally recognized, says Lambson. SUU President **Michael Benson** praises the program's beginnings, "The fact we got this



*Rick Lambson*



approved immediately after the last grad program we proposed was approved in the 2007 spring semester is indicative of the high quality faculty and coursework available at Southern Utah University. Every institution in the state was supportive of this new advanced degree at SUU. We hope for—and expect—success."

The professional program provides theory-and application-based courses in sports conditioning and fitness evaluation; sports medicine, nutrition and psychology; and applicable finance and law courses for athletic training professional.



*An exciting new website has been created as the virtual gateway to SUU's graduate programs. Prospective students will find the user-friendly site an inviting tool as they apply for graduate school acceptance at SUU. Check it out at*

[www.suu.edu/graduateschool](http://www.suu.edu/graduateschool)