

# SUU faculty receive awards from their peers

Each year a committee of faculty at Southern Utah University deliberate and choose colleagues to receive the honor of being named the outstanding educator, the outstanding scholar, or one of three distinguished educators. Selection is based on several criteria, including student evaluations, exceptional scholarly work and teaching effectiveness. The endorsement is echoed and supported by administration as well. The awards were made public at the 2004 commencement exercises on May 8.

## Commencement 2004

Outstanding Educator **Dr. David Rees** has been teaching at SUU for 19 years and he has been challenging students and shaping business leaders every step of the way. His courses are known by students to be tough; still, he consistently receives high student evaluations. He is deeply respected by his students, especially after they graduate and realize how well he prepared them for the career world. To Rees, the key to this kind of success is empowering students with the “ability to succeed.” His interpretation of this philosophy in the classroom means no compromises in the technical content of his courses, but a willingness to work with every student.

Dr. Rees serves in the demanding position of president-elect of the faculty senate. Not his first time in this capacity, Rees scrutinizes with his colleagues such issues as student retention, student placement and scholarships.

Outstanding Scholar **Dr. Gerald Calvasina** has accomplished much during his tenure at SUU that it seems he has been on campus for much longer than just four years. With an overall rating of 93, he is considered an excellent teacher, only surpassed by the 95 score he

### OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR



Dr. David Rees

received for his professional commitment. In the last academic year alone, he has published four refereed journal articles and five refereed conference proceedings publications. In total, he has authored or co-authored 23 journal articles and conference proceedings since arriving on campus in 2000.

This spring, Dr. Calvasina attended and presented at the Oxford Round Table in St. Anthony's College at the University of Oxford. There are only 35 people from around the world invited to England to participate in the Roundtable considering major issues in contemporary educational policy in the United States, the United

### OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR



Dr. Gerald Calvasina

Kingdom and other selected countries. The title of the paper he presented was, “Title VII and Third Party Sexual Harassment: The Customer's Not Always Right.”

Among his many published articles is “Harassment in the Workplace: A Continuing Legal Dilemma for Employers,” which will appear in the next edition of the Journal of Business and Behavioral Sciences. Teaching, however, is Calvasina's first love. He declares, “I try as much as possible to focus my research on issues that I can use in the classroom so that I can keep my students as current as possible on the issues.”

## D I S T I N G U I S H E D E D U C A T O R S



**Jean Adams** ('69 *Business Education*) has been delivering a nurturing and personalized learning environment to students at SUU for some 26 years and continues to do so right up to her retirement this year. Jean is an expert in Information Systems Applications and has taught a remarkable 18 different courses over her tenure at the Institution. Students have consistently ranked her as one of the best teachers on campus with evaluations in the high 90th percentile for both her overall teaching effectiveness and in practical application. "Supportive, very caring and gracious, but not at the expense of academic rigor and challenging her students," is the way one student described Adams. Her colleagues credit her as being one of the strongest student advocates on campus. She has supervised student teachers in business education and advised the Professional Business Leaders organization. She is active in five professional organizations, has been named the Distinguished Teacher at the Post Secondary Level by the Utah Business and Computer Education Association and has been a nominee for the Thunderbird Professor of the Year Award on at least five different occasions.



**Merlene Ellington** is an excellent clinical instructor of Early Childhood Education in the Elementary Education Department of the College of Education. Merlene has been at the University for 11 years and involved in educating young people of all ages the entire time. She is very creative and makes learning fun for her students. She adds enough rigor to the courses to keep the content challenging for all of the students. One of her current students summarized on her gifts a teacher with this statement: "Merlene is an awesome teacher! I aspire to be like her as a teacher." Students appreciate the fact that she is always organized and prepared. She has a true enthusiasm for learning and teaching, which is reflected in her students. Merlene relates the information in a way that makes sense and demonstrates how to apply the learned information in future endeavors. One common statement submitted in all of her evaluations by students is: "Merlene is a very effective teacher. She makes everyone feel good and excited to learn." She is one of the reasons students stay at SUU and finish their degrees.



A few years ago, a student requested, with emotion, that Professor **Brian Heuett** be the one to present her diploma. Because she respected him so much and credited him with the inspiration to do well in all of her classes, it seemed to her the only fitting scenario. Since he came to SUU in 1998, student evaluation scores on Brian, especially in the category of Teaching Effectiveness, are consistently above 90 percent. Students and colleagues agree, one of his strengths as a teacher is his ability and desire to inspire students to love learning. All about campus, too, Brian is one of those reliable, passionate individuals who gives as much as he is able. His leadership in program development in various pockets of the Institution is innumerable and invaluable. He has served as faculty senate president, as a Sterling Scholar judge, and on committees dealing with important issues like academic affairs, the University Mission Statement, and recruitment. [www.suu.edu](http://www.suu.edu)