

Current students key in recruitment and retention

There are many SUU students who are excited about the enrollment growth over the past few years and they should be as they have played a major role in making the numbers climb. Southern Utah University Student Association (SUUSA) has directed focus on creating more ways to get students involved in activities outside the classroom.

Provost **Abe Harraf** states, “We know students who get involved at college are more likely to persist in their education. There is a direct correlation between students finding ways to create bonds outside the classroom and having them decide to continue their education where they are.”

The dividends from getting freshmen involved quickly is a major part of the reason SUUSA has increased the number of clubs and organizations on campus. At last count, there were more than 122 clubs and climbing—already a record number. The Club Fair at the beginning of the year had in excess of 2,000 participants and many of the student activities in the Fall had record-setting attendance. An even more

elaborate version of the Fair is planned for next year; Club Rush will be similar to the excitement and suspense of a Greek Rush.

“We keep running out of food,” says SUUSA President **Steven Kiisel**. “We keep increasing our expectations and students keep surpassing our plans. It’s very exciting.”

SUUSA has also launched the Image Project, which presents specific ways to help all students know they are members of the SUU Student Association, not just student government members.

And then, another program with an interesting, seemingly oxymoronic name is that of the Student Alumni Association. When one understands the purpose of the program—that is, to prepare freshmen through seniors on becoming alumni—then the name makes perfect sense!

“The idea behind this organization is to help students get into the mindset of becoming active alumni upon graduation,” **Isaac Holyoak**, a junior communication major from Murray, Utah, and member of SUUSA government, explains.

“It’s really a rather novel idea, as we do things like finals survival kits, True T-Bird, the Alumni Networking Lunch in which we partner with Career Services and Alumni Relations, as well as the Alumni Mentoring Network.”

“At the luncheon,” **Ron Cardon** (*’96, Communication*), SUU Alumni Relations Associate Director, adds, “we invited four Iron County alumni to sit on a panel from which current students were able to get advice on careers, graduate school, interviews, resumes, and more. **Paul Bittmenn** (*’94, Social Science/Political Science*) now an attorney for the Cedar City Corporation; **Ethan Shumway** (*’03, Communication Composite*) now public information officer for Valley View Medical Center; **Kristie Eliason McMullin** (*’92, English*) now with Southwest Applied Technology College; and **Jennifer Morris Wood** (*’01, GELP Utah Supervisory/Administrative*) now principal of Canyon View High School; shared nuggets of wisdom about pursuing a career, and what they valued most about their SUU experience.