

## INTRODUCING SUA'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TEAM

**Scott Cowdrey, Director of Information Technology; Geoffrey Westropp, Information Systems Manager; Nanci Lawson, Programmer Analyst; Mark Duffield, Network Analyst; and Derrick Springer, Desktop Specialist**

In October 1999, Scott Cowdrey was named Director of Information Technology for Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo. Scott is responsible for all technology applications on the SUA, AV campus which opens for instruction in August 2001. SUA will be a laptop campus, with every student receiving a laptop computer as part of their tuition. The campus has over 3800 computer ports and students will be able to “plug in” almost anywhere at SUA.

The IT staff are dedicated to helping every student, faculty and staff member utilize new technology for the best learning environment possible.

“Basically our department administers the local network systems, several data servers and provides day to day technical support for desktop systems and applications,” says Scott. “In addition, we oversee the installation of all cabling, networking, computer, telephone and multimedia systems at the new campus site.”

Scott has worked in computer support services in higher education for about 15 years, with additional years as a graphic arts consultant/developer. He came to SUA from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, where he was Director of Computing Services for three years. Before that he was Director of Computer and Information Technologies at Lewis Clark State College in Idaho and a Managing Partner and Technology Consultant with Visual Advantage in Santa Monica, Calif.

“I started as a library systems analyst at a public state university in Montana and have had director-level responsibilities at the University of Notre Dame and at Montana State University to name just a few,” notes Scott. “But in all of these roles I have enjoyed developing and supporting technology services which facilitate the teaching and learning processes.”

Scott holds an MS from Montana State University where he majored in Computer Science and minored in Industrial and Management Engineering. He earned his BA from California State University, Northridge, majoring in Environmental Biology and minoring in Behavioral Psychology.

“During my undergraduate and pre-graduate school years I worked in the irrigation and construction industries, and spent time as a National Park Service Ranger in law enforcement,” says Scott.

In addition to Scott, there are four technical support staff in the Information Technology Department at SUA. Geoff Westropp, Information Systems Manager focuses on central server administration and technical database support. Nanci Lawson, Programmer Analyst specializes in PeopleSoft technical service as well as desktop systems support. Mark Duffield, Network Analyst is responsible for most networking systems and phone services. New to the IT Team is Derrick Springer, Desktop Specialist, providing advanced technical support of Windows NT, 2000 and desktop applications, and assisting with data integration between database applications.

“While each person has a specific area of responsibility, we have some overlap to provide backup when we need it,” says Scott. “For instance, Geoff and Mark are also working on the design and installation of various systems at the new campus.”