

UNIVERSITY JOURNAL SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY



SU professors rated on Net

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PHOTO BY JANELLE REICHERT

Students at SUU now have the opportunity to rate their professors, programs of study on campus and campus life in general via the Internet.

The Internet site www.virtualratings.com provides a forum for students from schools across the nation, including SUU, to speak freely about their respective schools.

Students have the forum to rate their professors on a scale from 0 (F-) to 10 (A++). Critics are also given the opportunity to leave comments about the professor being critiqued.

Students can access the site and view the comments and ratings other students have left.

“A most important factor involved in obtaining an education is the professor who provides you with that education. This site assists students in searching out the best professors as part of seeking to get the best education they can get for the money,” Jeffrey Roscher of VirtualRatings.com said.

Twice yearly, awards are sent to the highest-rated professors from each school as a way to thank them for their work.

“This provides top-notch educators with the appreciation they earned and deserve. Each of us at VirtualRatings.com has been influenced by some very special professors in our lifetime, and this site is dedicated to them and those like them that would otherwise go unrecognized,” Roscher said.

VirtualRatings.com also awards the students who critique the professors. For every complete critique given, the critic is entered in a drawing. At the end of June, a Rio MP3 Player will be given away.

“The [more] ratings and reviews you write, the greater your chance of winning the Rio Player,” Roscher said.

Students wishing to critique SUU must provide their name and e-mail address.

“This identification requirement is critical, and acts as a deterrent to reckless criticism. Those entering the ratings and commentary tend to choose their words in a more thoughtful manner,” Roscher said.

Although this site is not censored, Roscher said slanderous and libelous ratings brought to his attention will be removed.

VirtualRatings.com also supplies ratings for products and services.

“We hope that people, products or services that receive criticism use this information as encouragement to improve,” Roscher said.

Mary Wheeling, assistant professor of accounting at SUU, said although she is worried that only students with negative feelings toward a professor will take advantage of this site, she will most likely use the site to help her realize her strengths and weaknesses as a teacher.

“I think it’s a great tool for students to learn more about their professors,” Kyle Rowley, a junior chemistry major from Delta, Utah, said.

VirtualRatings.com is an independent third-party forum and is not endorsed by SUU.