





HELLO, MY  
NAME IS  
HEIDI VAN ERT

Heidi Van Ert is a professor in the Department of Education at Westminster College. She teaches student teachers how to educate children in the creative arts. She is an artist herself, and paints at the Peterson Art Center. She recently completed her first play, "Making Waves," a comedy about the lives of teachers, in the spirit of "The Vagina Monologues" and "The Coltrane Report." SLAC will be doing a reading of the play this summer. In her spare time, Van Ert loves hiking in the mountains, especially Mill Creek Canyon, which she visits nearly every day. She loves supporting the local cultural arts, and goes to dance recitals, plays and concerts several times a month.

Van Ert loves her condo complex in South Salt Lake because it is right by the Jordan River Parkway, where she works frequently. She loves being so close to the wildlife and believes the South Salt Lake Palms have done a great job of making the parkway safer. She also likes the diversity of the area. Her issue of concern is the huge shortage of teachers, which she says will only increase as baby boomers retire. She hopes that her play will help play a part in recruiting 50,000 new teachers by 2020.

## SLC interns gain D.C. perspective

Unique experiences • Tyler Ryan and Julie Sagers go inside the Beltway, learn the ropes.

By JENNIFER BISCHOFF  
Staff Writer

Washington, D.C. • University of Utah student Julie Sagers has been given a unique opportunity, working for Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, on Capitol Hill. Sagers spends her days giving tours of the Capitol, talking to constituents and performing administrative work. She found her internship through the Hinckley Institute of Politics, an organization at the University of Utah, which provides opportunities for students to work in different areas of government.

Sagers, a 19-year-old senior at the U from Salt Lake City, is majoring in sociology.

Another U student also found an internship through the same organization.

Tyler Ryan, also from Salt Lake City, is a 25-year-old junior political science major, interning for freshman U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah. Both Sagers and Ryan hold several responsibilities.

"Throughout the day there are a lot of different things I may be doing," Sagers said. "Lately, I have been taking constituents on tours of the Capitol."

Both interns attend briefings, answer the phone and do whatever else is needed. Sagers has attended several briefings on energy, while Ryan has attended several on health care.



INTERNSHIP • Tyler Ryan, 25, interned for Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah.

"Every day we get phone calls from some very colorful individuals with some interesting ideas and complaints," Ryan said.

Working on Capitol Hill has also provided them with experiences they cannot get anywhere else.

One of Sagers' favorite experiences was seeing Gordon Brown, Britain's prime minister, when he came and addressed Congress.

Ryan and his wife, Dominique, attended President Obama's inauguration.

"After going through security we ran to see the Chief Justice [John Roberts] swearing in [President] Obama and were able to hear his inaugural address," Ryan said. "It was freezing cold outside, but we were able to see what we came for."

Ryan was also excited when he had the opportunity to shake hands with Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, who is known for seeking harsh punishments when he served as a chief felony prosecutor.

After graduating from the U both interns plan to attend law school.

Ryan plans to take the Law School Admissions Test in October.

"My wife and I both have one year left to graduate. We would love to stay at the University of Utah for law school and grad school; however, where we live will be determined where I am accepted," Ryan said.

Sagers will take her LSAT in June and believes the experience will help her with future plans.

"I think my experience on the hill will serve me well both getting into law school and beyond," Sagers said. "I am interested in government work when I am done with school. Potentially, I could see myself returning to the hill."

She will be returning the University of Utah for one more semester.

## Smile

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child's new, improved face.

The 1,000 Smiles Campaign is a test case for the rest of the nation, said Utah chairman Michael Nebeker. If it is successful, the organization will take it to other mid-sized cities.

Area residents can expect to see a flood of radio and TV spots, as well as billboards and fliers in the mail. Utah was picked as the starting point because of the strength of its chapter, Nebeker said. The chapter includes about 1,000 student volunteers who help raise money.

With each surgery costing about \$240, the 1,000 smiles campaign has a hefty price tag. Downey urged potential donors to not be

overwhelmed by the vastness of the goal, and instead to remember that forgoing small luxuries can add up to a smile.

"It's a new pair of shoes and a hoodbag," she said.

So far the organization is on track to meet its \$240,000 goal, Nebeker said.

The fundraiser will culminate May 30 with a breakfast at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, when the final total will be announced, said board member Julie Hopfner. The breakfast is free, though donations are welcome.

Hopkins said there will be a performance by the Orinoff family, and Bill and Kathy Meyer, Operation Smile's founders, will give a presentation on their experiences traveling around the world, fixing smiles.

## Cafe

• Community •

through a rough financial period last fall when overstaffing and a drop of the average meal payment from about \$10 to \$7 led to bounced paychecks and the dismissal of staff members. But board member Don Merrill said operations are going smoothly now.

He said One World Cafe is serving 100 to 120 patrons a day. The average payment is \$7 but the diners who can afford it tend to pay more, he said.

"The community continues to support the concept," Merrill said. "I think it goes beyond the economic climate. People were looking for a way to take ownership of their community."

Boosting the success of the restaurant are non-coucher volunteers, including Merrill and Stephanie Lee. Lee said she feels inspired that a

woman entrepreneur developed the community eatery. As a volunteer, she's learned how to make soups, salad dressings and other foods.

"I love how I feel when I eat here," Lee said. "I love the concept of paying what it's worth."

The idea is catching on. Founder Denise Everett and the One World Everybody Eats foundation help set up similar community kitchens in other states.

"It's a vibrant model," Merrill said. "It was an idea that resonated with me."

The draw for diner Josh Statmos is the organic meals.

"It's like getting fast food that won't kill you," he said.

Another plus, according to Statmos, "It's a great place to take a date. It's so unusual."

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