

Provo celebrates books

By DAPHNA ZOHAR

A statewide celebration, the Utah Humanities Book Festival, is hosting book festivals in 16 Utah sites, including Provo.

David Pace, literature program officer with the Utah Humanities Council, said the council hopes Utah citizens look forward to this event.

"Approximately 55 to 60 authors that we are sending out across the state are mandated to share the ideas of their books to the public," Pace said.

Events sponsored by the Utah Humanities Council in Provo include three writer visits, two of which are poets.

Tomaz Salamun visited the library on Oct. 15 and Elisabeth Murawski follows with a visit on Oct. 22 at noon in the Harold B. Lee library. Salamun first garnered attention for his collection, "Poker." Murawski is known for her poetry, titled, "Moon and Mercury."

Scott Westerfeld, author of the series "Uglies," is the last writer to visit Provo for this program.

His visit is also part of Provo City Library's first annual Teen Book Fest.

Courtney Lowe, community relations coordinator of the Provo City Library, said Scott Westerfeld is headlining an effort to celebrate literacy and literature written for teens.

"We want to provide an opportunity for teens to interact with authors and enjoy themselves," Lowe said.

Following the success of the Children's Book Fest in the library, Lowe said the library



Photo courtesy of David Pace
People browse through books at the Utah Humanities Book Festival.

wanted to host an event for adolescent readers.

"Teens deserve their own festival for their own literature because it's so different from children's," she said.

According to the Provo library website, included in the Teen Book Fest are events such as author signings, a costume contest and giveaways.

The theme this year originates from a Salman Rushdie quote, which is, "What kind of idea are you?"

"People come to the festival and find out what idea they are that they don't even know yet," Pace said. "It's about having a real discussion with published thinkers."

During these visits, writers and authors will read their books. They will also be interviewed on stage by other authors or academics.

Pace said this book festival is for everyone.

"This is the biggest book festival in terms of reach across Utah," he said.

Salt Lake is also hosting numerous events for the festival, including a poetry slam, a mash-up competition and bookmaking for children.

Andrew Shaw, spokesperson for the Salt Lake Public Library, said the library is a co-sponsor of the festival.

"As one of the hosting organizations, we think it's great to have activities in the library," Shaw said. "Every year it gets bigger and better."

Within the Salt Lake Public Library are more events to celebrate books in Utah. The Utah Literary Awards will be held on Thursday. This event honors outstanding work by Utah writers or works having a strong Utah theme.

For more information on the Utah Humanities Book Festival, log on to utahhumanities.org.

HELP-International expands

Now offering services in Tanzania, Peru

By HOLLY TIMM

HELP-International has announced the addition of two new countries to its humanitarian program.

Volunteers can now choose from eight countries to visit and perform humanitarian service next summer. Those countries include Uganda, Thailand, Fiji, India, Belize, El Salvador and now Tanzania and Peru.

"It's an opportunity to move into parts of the world that have a lot of need," said Mike Riding, executive director of HELP-International. "Perhaps a different kind of need, more of an actual the-face-of-poverty need than some of the other places that we operate in."

In Tanzania, volunteers will live at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro in a town called Boma Ng'ombe. In Peru, volunteers will most likely be in Puno, which is in the southern region, Riding said.

"Working in Tanzania is going to open a lot of doors for HELP and for the people of the East Africa region," said Lauren Bluth, a 2010 country director for HELP in Uganda and BYU alumna from Mesa, Ariz. "Anytime an outside organization can

begin to bring a sense of unity and open lines and doors of communication between citizens of different countries, it's a really powerful thing."

Volunteers will be in Peru during the winter, which is when there is more need with cold-related illnesses and ranching during the cold season, Riding said.

"Peru is an amazing place that offers a unique environment and variety of cultures to be working with, as with all the HELP programs. Peru will be a great addition to the amazing work HELP is already doing," said Tyler Nelson, a 2010 country director for HELP in El Salvador and senior from Portland, Ore., studying public health.

When considering adding new countries, HELP's board of directors researched a few questions including: Do they already have networks there? Will the volunteers be safe? Is the environment conducive

to the type of projects HELP specializes in? Both Tanzania and Peru fit these criteria, Riding said.

"Additional programs bring new and enthusiastic volunteers, which will add to the foundation HELP has set with the over 2,000 volunteers that have gone out with them," Nelson said.

HELP-International's mission is to "empower people, to fight global poverty through life-changing sustainable development programs," Riding said.

To find more information or to apply to be a volunteer, go to HELP-International.org.

universe.byu.edu
Go online to listen to more about HELP-International and its recent expansion.



Courtesy photo
HELP-International provides humanitarian service to Uganda, Thailand, Fiji, India, Belize, El Salvador, Tanzania and Peru.

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