Provo celebrates books

By DANA P. ROYER

A statewide celebration, the Utah Humanities Book Festival, is hosting book signings in 18 Utah sites, including Provo.

David Pace, literature program officer with the Utah Humanities Council, said the council hopes Utahians will flock to the event on Oct. 22.

"Approximately 45 to 50 authors that we are sending out across the state are mandated to share the love of Utah books to the public," Pace said.

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

"Susan Scholten visited the library on Oct. 15, and Elisabeth Murawski followed up with a visit on Oct. 21 at noon in the Harold B. Lee Library. Scholten first garnered attention for his collection, "Poker," Murawski is known for her poetry, novels, "Moon and Mercury." Scott Westerfeld, author of the "Uglies," is the last writer wanted to host an event for adults.

"These authors were invited for their own literature because it's so different from children's," she said.

According to the Provo Library website, included in the Provo Book Fest are events such as author signings, a museum exhibit and performances.

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

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

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

Pace said the book festival is for everyone.

HELP-International expands

By HOLLY TIMM

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

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

"It's an opportunity to move into parts of the world that have a lot of need," said Phil Feilen, a 2010 country director for HELP-International.

"Perhaps a different kind of need, zeros of an area that the type of poverty need than some of the other places that we operate in," Feilen said.

In Tanzania, volunteers will live on the base of Mount Kilimanjaro in a town called Boma Ng'ombe. In Peru, volunteers will work in a town called Pisco, which is in the southern region, Feilen 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 Blish, a 2010 country director for HELP in Uganda and BYU alumna.

"Then Peru will be a great addition for the amazing work HELP is already doing," said Tyler Nelson, a 2010 country director for HELP in El Salvador and founder and owner 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? How many people? How many need?

"Additional programs bring new and enthusiastic volunteers, which will add to the foundation HELP already set with the over 3,000 volunteers that have gone out with us," Feilen said.

HELP-International is an "impoverished people to fight global poverty through sustainable developmental programs," Feilen said.

"We feel more information or to apply to be a volunteer go to HELP-International.org.

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