

# UITE

## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013  
VOLUME 13  
ISSUE 1



*“The teacher education program at the University of Utah helped me dream about what is possible... Here I am almost ten years later, making the dream come true.”*

- Secondary Education Graduate

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# UITE

URBAN INSTITUTE FOR  
TEACHER EDUCATION

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In 2009, the Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE) was established as the operating arm for K-12 teacher licensure at the University of Utah. Graduates of the UITE are prepared by faculty from across the College of Education and with partners from the Colleges of Fine Arts, Humanities, Science, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

This issue of Happening in the UITE highlights graduates of the elementary and secondary licensure programs. Their stories showcase the levels of excellence among educators who are making a difference in the lives of today's students in K-12 classrooms!



# ALUMNI, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



BRITNEY HILLIER

Britney Hillier (B.S. Elementary Education, 2012), received a 5th grade teaching position shortly after graduation in May, 2012. She is currently teaching locally at Parkside Elementary School in the Murray City School District. Both of her team teachers in the 5th grade are recent graduates from the College of Education and Britney feels lucky to have them as mentors and guides during her first year of teaching. After recently hearing from her, Britney finds teaching to be a rewarding experience. She likes being challenged and she loves seeing how she is helping her students both academically and developmentally.



ANTHONY MILLER

Having student taught in fifth grade at Washington Elementary in the Salt Lake School District, Anthony Miller (B.S. Elementary Education, 2012) was enthusiastically offered a sixth grade teaching position at the same school. Being at Washington Elementary and knowing the faculty, as well as most of the entering students, made the transition from student teacher to classroom teacher much easier. He is still learning the in's and out's of being the sole teacher of 22 students but each day is learning something to add to his repertoire. He keeps moving forward and is enjoying every minute.



MELISSA CROCKETT

On graduation day in May, Melissa Crockett (B.S. Elementary Education, 2012) was offered a teaching position at Longview Elementary School in the Murray City School District. She happily accepted a retiring teacher's 6th grade and all the supplies came with it! Today, her 25 students are learning amazing things about Egypt, energy, and the area of polygons. In a recent correspondence, Melissa said, "I wish someone would have told me how the tender little compliments from students sky-rocket your feeling of self worth. It's worth going into teaching just for that purpose!"



Profiled are three examples of extraordinary teachers that received their training from the College of Education.

Collette Hayes earned her B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Utah and has taught at many elementary schools in the Salt Lake City area. Currently she is a teacher at Mill Creek Elementary. Collette serves her students not only in the classroom but in the community as well. She has been a Site Teacher Educator since 2010. Mentoring student teachers from the University of Utah and first year teachers through the Great Beginnings Program in Granite School District has been a rewarding experience. She gives her personal best to assure that they become effective teachers. Collette was honored as the Granite School District's Teacher of the Year 2012 and went on to compete on a state level.

After being accepted into the Education program, Mandy Sorenson was awarded the Elementary Education Departmental scholarship, and the AmeriCorps service scholarship. Her field work experience included teaching in a 6th grade classroom at Mill Creek Elementary with Collette Hayes. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with her degree in Elementary Education and her ESL Endorsement in May of 2012. Mandy is currently teaching a 4th and 5th grade combination class at Mill Creek Elementary in the Granite district. Mandy was recently recognized as a Great Granite Educator by the Superintendent of the Granite School District, Dr. Martin Bates.

While Misty James was working on her Elementary Education degree from the University of Utah, she was able to work for Canyons school district as a classroom art instructor. She worked with students in grades K-6 each week. Misty completed her student teaching at Mill Creek Elementary in Granite district working with 6th grade students. Collette Hayes was her site teacher educator also. Misty graduated in 2011 and was hired by Granite district. This is her second year teaching at Taylorsville Elementary in 6th grade. Misty plans on beginning a Master's program with a focus on curriculum and instruction in June.

# ALUMNI, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



ANNA JOHNSON

Ni hoa ma? Anna Johnson, (B.S. Elementary Education, 2012) wanted a diverse and challenging experience after graduating this past May, 2012. She took a risk and enthusiastically moved to China. Anna is currently teaching English to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders in Shanghai. After having student taught in a sixth grade classroom at Wasatch Elementary School in the Salt Lake School District, Anna anxiously and nervously agreed to teach younger students. After several months of living and teaching in China, Anna is finding young children fun to teach. Her students are teaching her about Chinese culture and she is teaching them how to speak, read, and write in English. Everyday is different and every day brings new experiences and new ideas.



CHELSEA HOYT

A recent graduate from the Urban Institute of Teacher Education, Chelsea Hoyt (B.S. Elementary Education, 2012), landed her dream job at a charter school in Herriman, Utah, Providence Hall. Recently, Providence Hall was named charter school of the year and Chelsea feels honored to be teaching there. Chelsea's student-centered teaching approach is inquiry based and her students are encouraged to be risk takers. With constant reflection, her students are deep thinkers and are growing every day. She loves teaching because she has the opportunity to guide students to be independent thinkers and gain the confidence they need to succeed.



AMY NOYCE

After graduating from the University of Utah in the spring of 2009, Amy taught for a year at South Hills Middle School before arriving at her current teaching position. She is now in the middle of her third year teaching English at the Academy for Math, Engineering & Science (AMES) - a charter school that is a secondary education partner of the University of Utah. Although, as a college student and future teacher, she had not originally planned on teaching at a charter school, the school's mission statement of preparing a diverse student body for post-secondary education success is exactly the reason she wanted to teach in the first place. Helping students realize they can go to college is one of her main motivators.

# ALUMNI, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



RYAN WELLS

Ryan Wells is a 2012 graduate of the World Languages and Master's Degree licensure program. Ryan currently works at Taylorsville high where he teaches Spanish and coaches swimming. In Ryan's words, "Teaching is the best thing that ever happened to me!" "Even though I never thought I'd be waking up at 4:30AM everyday, coaching swim two hours a day, and spending several hours a day lesson planning, I absolutely love my job. For me, each day is a challenge to see how I can take everything I learned in college and make it magical in the classroom. Everyday, I learn something new. As I plan my daily lessons, I'm grateful for the my professors who encouraged in-depth thinking and quality education. I've set a high standard for myself and I strive daily to meet it."



BRENDA HURLBURT

I graduated in 1996, from the Teaching and Learning department at the University of Utah under the guidance of cohort leader Mary Burbank. I was then able to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher when hired as a mathematics teacher for Bryant Middle School. Just as I was getting my feet wet, I decided to return to the University of Utah, earning my M.Ed. in 2000. After a few years break from formal learning, I returned to the University of Utah yet again, this time to pursue a degree in Educational Leadership and policy. Also during this time, I transitioned to a high school teaching position after spending 14 years at the middle school level. I have been at East High School since 2010 and finished my second M.Ed. in 2011. This year has been another transition, one into the administrative level where I will be putting my most recent degree to work.



KYLE JENSEN

In his 4th year of teaching at Copper Hills High School in West Jordan Utah accomplishments and responsibilities for Kyle Jensen at Copper Hills High School Include: U.S. History Chairman, Communication and Leadership Co-chairman, West Jordan Community Council vice Chair, and Boys Golf Head Coach. In his second year Kyle was awarded Teacher of the Year, a reward voted on by students and faculty. Currently he is developing and teaching a course on Ethnic Studies for Jordan School District. In addition to his teaching and coaching responsibilities, he has returned to the University of Utah to earn a Master's degree in the Department of Education Culture and Society where he is focusing on teaching citizenship through diversity at a public high school level. Kyle hopes to one day secure a position at a College or University to teach.



# FALL STE CONFERENCE 2012



KELLIE MAY

Learning and teaching are my passions, and luckily the career I chose allows for me to do both each and every day. The first degree I earned from the University of Utah was completed in 1995. Since then, I have returned multiple times to further my education and craft as an educator. I completed my first M.Ed. in 2000, and though I did it to advance my position on the pay scale, I benefited much more than just monetarily. The program was oriented around action research, a practice that instilled in me the importance of self-reflection, research and evaluation of practice early in my career. I also studied early childhood special education before pursuing a second M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy which I finished in 2011.



ELLEN STEMLE

Last spring, Ellen Stemle reports she was quite fortunate to both graduate and accept a teaching job in the same week. The staff and administration at West Hills Middle School in Jordan School District welcomed her and without hesitation she was certain that she had chosen the right place to start her career! Ellen commented that so far, her first year has gone by quickly; as both an adventure and as a learning experience! Ellen reports that she never pictured herself teaching middle school, but she's learned that teaching is teaching no matter the age (though she's slowly learning to navigate the maturity level of 8th graders; they're a fun bunch!). Ellen shared, "I'm so lucky to be working with a wonderful and experienced mentor who shares my passion for language arts."



EDUCATORS FROM ACROSS  
THE WASATCH FRONT  
CONVERGED ON THE  
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
AS PART OF THE URBAN  
INSTITUTE FOR TEACHER  
EDUCATION'S ANNUAL  
SITE TEACHER EDUCATOR  
MENTORING CONFERENCE!



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## NEED TO KNOW

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS MARCH 1, 2013

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS:

- Elementary w/ EDPS: February 1st
- Elementary w/ SPED: March 1st
- Secondary graduate UITE deadline: February 1st
- Secondary ECS deadline: January 1st
- Secondary ELP deadline: January 15th

*Most scholarship deadlines are March 1st.*

Students should consult the COE scholarship page at <http://education.utah.edu/scholarships/index.php> for specifics.

Deadline to apply to the U of U for Summer Semester is March 15, 2013 and the deadline to apply for Fall Semester is April, 1, 2013.

The Main UITE office is located on the First Floor of Milton Bennion Hall in Room 114. Ms. Kimberly Howard, will be available for questions and general information Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm

Faculty Offices are also located in MBH 114.

## CONTACT US

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For more information about the Urban Institute for Teacher Education,  
visit our website at [uite.utah.edu](http://uite.utah.edu)