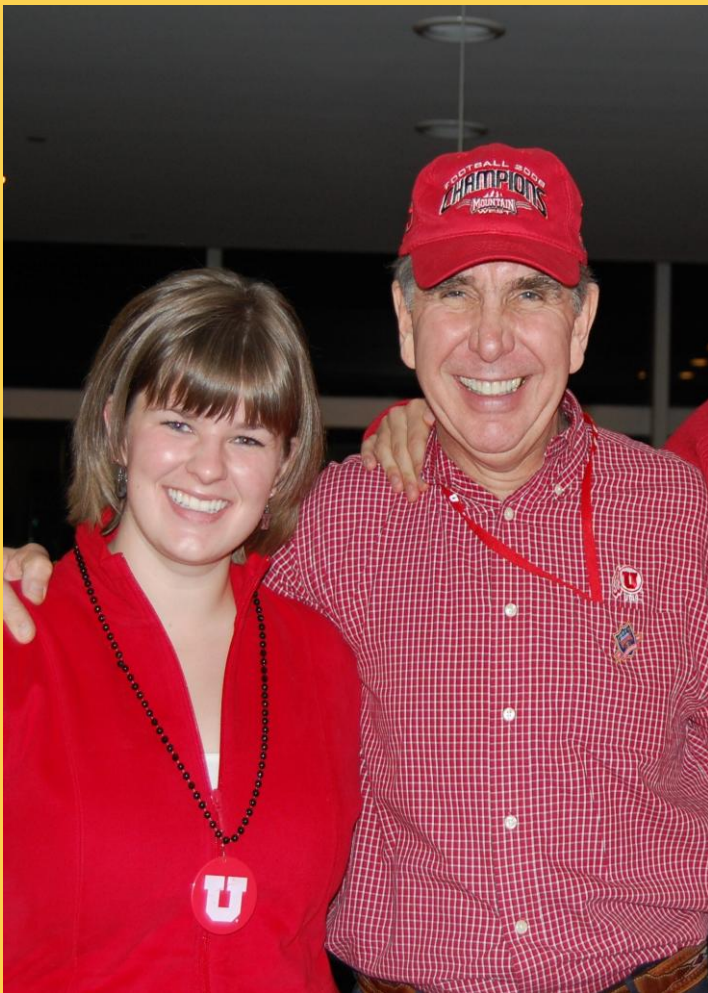




winning people

Caitlin McDonald
Asian Studies/History
University of Utah Office of the President



My position as a Presidential Intern for President Michael K. Young at the University of Utah has given me perspective on the inner workings of a large organization. Although there are several levels of administration with different responsibilities, the goal is the same – to advance the University and make positive contributions to society through teaching, research, and service. I have daily experiences working in offices in the Park building where I see the everyday work that goes into running the U. This spring I am shadowing the University's Vice President for Government Relations, for which I work at the Utah State Capitol to lobby for the University of Utah to the legislature.

The best thing about the internship is that I am able to meet and learn from amazing people. Last semester, I worked at Utah football games in the President's private box in Rice-Eccles Stadium. At these football games, I met and spoke (in Chinese) with Governor Huntsman, helped Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin into his wheelchair, and chatted with Senators Hatch and Bennett. Besides the football games, I have worked at events at the President's house during which I am able to speak with major donors to the University, political leaders, and prominent researchers and academics. Finally, the interns have a weekly seminar with prominent members of the University and community. I have gained real perspective from listening to the real-world experiences of people like President Young, all of the Vice Presidents of the University, the SLC Director of the International Rescue Committee, and Governor Huntsman, to name just a few. With the incredible connections I've made and the excellent free dinners I've eaten because of this internship, I would have to say that I have the best perks of any internship I've ever heard of!