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Living the dream

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Apple Valley native Sarah Underwood works at Paramount Studio on TV's 'The Doctors'

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Apple Valley Review

Every time Sarah Underwood drives through the gates at Paramount Studios in Hollywood she knows that she is living her dream.

Underwood, 21, has been a marketing department intern for the TV show "The Doctors" since last September.

“This is an experience of a lifetime. A lot of times when you first start out you don’t get a chance to work for a major company,” Underwood said. “This is an actual show being distributed for CBS.”

After graduating from Victor Valley College, in 2008, Underwood began studying kinesiology and business at Cal State San Bernardino.

Underwood soon changed her focus to advertising management which combined her love for marketing and digital arts.

Years earlier, while attending VVC, Underwood was asked where she saw herself in five years.

“I would love to be in the film industry,” Underwood said. “Now four years later I got my foot in the door ... “Just driving on that lot you get that feeling of awe.”

Underwood said that her heart had always been in film, but she had no idea how to get there, so she put her dreams “on the back burner.”

A few weeks after applying she was asked to come to Paramount, where she was interviewed by three studio teams.

Underwood was not accepted for the position that she applied for, but was offered a job in the promotion and editing department for the production of “The Doctors.”

“This fits hand-in-hand with my advertising management degree that I’m working toward,” Underwood said.

One of Underwood’s duties is viewing raw footage of recently taped shows and writing radio scripts that describe key elements of the episodes.

Since many departments are involved in the production of a single show, Underwood coordinates a variety of schedules, delivery dates, voiceover talents and all the associated paperwork that goes with it.

Underwood also reviews TV promos to insure clarity and continuity with voiceovers, timing and spelling.

“It’s a long process, but fast. We get a few hours to make sure that everything is correct,” Underwood said.

Underwood has become good friends with her coworkers and has rubbed shoulders with people from “Glee” and “NCIS: Los Angeles.”

She even had the opportunity to meet Daniel Craig, who played the role of Agent 007, James Bond.

Underwood, who graduates in June, would love to be an animation director. Her dream job is to work for Pixar Studios.

According to Underwood the key to film industry success is humility and respect. A good reputation spreads quickly and a bad one could ruin a career.

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