



CEA supports the goals and objectives of the University, provides representation to the administration and the University community, recognizes the dignity of individuals, and promotes excellence and service.

*A quarterly newsletter for all classified employees at Utah State University*

**FALL  
2006**

**www.usu.edu/classemp**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**October**

- 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Students Fall Break

**November**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ CEA Board meeting; TSC 225 at 11 am
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Students Thanksgiving Break
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Employee Holiday; Thanksgiving

**December**

- 7<sup>th</sup> ~ CEA Board meeting; TSC 225 at 11 am
- 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Classes End
- 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Final Exams
- 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Graduation
- 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Employee Holiday; Christmas

**January**

- 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Employee Holiday; New Years Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> ~ CEA Board meeting; TSC 225 at 11 am
- 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Spring Semester Begins
- 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Employee Holiday; Human Rights Day

**February**

- 1<sup>st</sup> ~ CEA Board meeting; TSC 225 at 11 am
- 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Valentines Day



**MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT**

Our big event for the last quarter was CEA week. Thank you to all who participated in this fun filled week of events. We began our activities with a basketball tournament between Housing and Facilities. Facilities won the tournament and were presented with gifts at the CEA luncheon. It was fun to watch these teams play and witness the sportsmanship they had.

On June 27th we held our annual CEA coffee break to raise money for the CEA scholarship fund. Juice, coffee, hot chocolate, donuts and bagels were sold and we were able to donate \$180.00 towards the scholarship program. We appreciate those that came to support such a worthwhile event.

Wednesday June 28th a Brown Bag Forum was held with Jean Lown speaking on "Small Steps to Health & Wealth". Those that attended received excellent advice and handouts. The culminating event for our CEA week was the luncheon in the Ballroom. We had nearly 400 employees attend, where a delicious lunch was served, Pres. Albrecht spoke, the Employees of the Quarters were recognized (Co Bruner, Liz Kefauver, Terri Gass, Diane Green), and the Employee of the Year was announced (Co Bruner).

Two CEA scholarships were awarded to, Richard Jensen (son of Chris Jensen from Facilities) and Katrina Johnson (daughter of Milt Johnson from Disability Resource Center). We hope all those who participated in activities during the week enjoyed themselves.

We encourage all Classified Employees to watch for upcoming events that you can participate in. As a committee we are continuing to work hard to voice our opinions on employee benefits and salaries as we attend meetings with the University administration. Please contact us with your questions and ideas as we are here to serve you.

Karen Mecham Hoffman, CEA Vice President

## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SPOTLIGHT

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We recognize that a big draw to working at USU is our competitive benefits package. As University employees, we are privileged to participate in some great programs and profit from some exciting benefits.

This quarter, we are highlighting staff discounts at the O.H. Plant Shop & Greenhouse. Did you know you can get 15% off flowers, plants, apple cider, and poinsettias? They are located at 800 E 1000 N. The hours are 2:30 - 5:30 pm, Monday - Friday, and 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, on Saturdays. Give them a call at 7-3446.

Remember, the holidays are right around the corner. The Nutrition and Food Science department offers holiday specials on turkeys and hams. Don't forget they also offer Famous Aggie Ice Cream, dairy products, and gift baskets. Visit the NFS website at <http://hd.usu.edu/icecream/> or <http://www.usu.edu/aggieicecream>, or <http://www.aggieicecream.com>.

Do you get a little blue around the winter season? A visit to the Psychology Community Clinic might be just what you need. The USU Psychology Community Clinic provides professional services to the residents of Northern Utah, Southern Idaho, and Western Wyoming, as well as students and staff of Utah State University. Services are provided by graduate students completing their MS or PhD degrees and are supervised by a licenced PhD psychology faculty. Fees for services are based on a modest sliding schedule and determined by monthly take-home pay of clients and the number of person in the family. The clinic is a participating provider with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Utah. Please visit their website:  
<http://www.cehs.usu.edu/psyc/links/clinic.htm>.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE GET INVOLVED

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Join a committee. Every committee could use more help. If you have a question about where you would fit in, contact Jill Ballard at [jballard@purchasing.usu.edu](mailto:jballard@purchasing.usu.edu).

## CEA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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Congratulations to our CEA scholarship winners, Richard Jensen and Katrina Johnson.

Richard Jensen son of Chris and Kim Jensen attended Mt. Crest High School and graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was on the Mt. Crest Tennis team for 3 years. Richard loves the outdoors, especially snow boarding. He currently works as a cook at Copper Mill Restaurant. He is a freshman at USU and his goal is to attend Medical School and become a Doctor.

Katrina Johnson is pursuing a second bachelor's degree in Math-Stat Composite Teaching degree. Her first bachelor's degree was in Liberal Arts and she intends to teach math – stats at the high school level. She is the daughter of Milt and Christine Johnson. Milt works for the Disability Resource Center.

## LOGO CONTEST WINNERS

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Congratulations to our first place logo contest winner, Wendy Bair. Wendy is a staff assistant from the office of Research Services. As our contest winner, she received a gift certificate to the Skyroom Restaurant. Coming in a close second and third are Taci Watterson and Chris Olsen who also received great prizes.



## CEA EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



**Kris Howard**  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (July - Sept)

The Classified Employees Association would like to take a moment to recognize one of our outstanding employees.

Kris Howard is a Business Assistant in the Biology Department and has been

there for eight and a half years, that is also as long as she has been at Utah State University. She was nominated by many of her coworkers and they state: "She is out going and has a pleasant demeanor."

"Kris does a superb job and we don't know where we would be without her."

"She has demonstrated excellence as an employee in several areas."

"She is extremely knowledgeable and completely conscientious and reliable."

"Kris has increased efficiency and is a great pleasure to work with."

"The work ethic and dedication that Kris exhibits make her a roll model for other employees and an excellent choice for Classified Employee Association's Employee of the Quarter" and we agree.

## REFLECTING ON CEA WEEK



One of the fun parts of CEA week is the Coffee Break on the TSC Patio. This year they offered orange juice, coffee, and hot chocolate in addition to pastries and Old Gristmill bagels. The proceeds went to the scholarship fund.



A great benefit of being a member of CEA is attending the Brown Bag Forums. We have the opportunity to get extra information about issues that are important to us. This quarter, we've had Jean Lown, Rhonda Menlove, and Lyle Hillyard speak on topics ranging from finance to politics.



The highlight of CEA week is the annual luncheon where the food is phenomenal! Every year we award fantastic door prizes just for



coming. This year, our guest speaker was President Stan Albrecht. We want to thank everyone who came to the events for CEA week to show your support.



# Classified Employee's Association Survey

October 2006

*Please tell us how we are doing and what we can do better*

1. **Employee of the Quarter and Year Awards:** The Classified Employee's Association currently awards four employees of the quarter and one of the four is recognized as the employee of the year. Do you want to continue to recognize an employee of the year or just the four employees of the quarter?

- Award only the four employees of the quarter and eliminate the employee of the year  
 Keep the awards as they are

Award Comments:

2. **Shared Leave:** Would you be interested in creating a "shared leave pool" where employees can donate annual leave to another employee who has exhausted his or her leave due to a medical situation?

- Yes       No

Shared Leave Comments:

3. **Classified Employee's Association Week:** Did you participate in the CEA week? If yes, tell us what you liked. If no, let us know why you didn't participate.

- Yes       No

CEA Week Comments:

#### 4. **Newsletter, Email, and Website:**

A. Do you receive the CEA Newsletter?

- Yes       No

B. Is the newsletter Informative?

- Yes       No

C. Have you visited the CEA website?

- Yes       No

D. Do you receive CEA email?

- Yes       No

Newsletter and Website Comments and/or Suggestions:

5. **Quarterly Brown Bag Forums:** Do you attend the quarterly brown bag forums? If no, why not? Do you have any suggestions for guest speakers or topics you would like to hear about at the brown bag forums?

- Yes       No

Brown Bag Forum Comments:

Please return this form to Enid Kelly at UMC 5210 by November 1, 2006