

April 2008

PEA Elections end today (Wednesday, April 16) at 5:00 p.m. If you haven't voted yet, go to the PEA homepage <http://www.usu.edu/pea> and request a ballot with your A-number and Banner password. The site is secure, but you may have to accept the security certificate to proceed if you get any security warnings.

Speaking of security warnings, some of you may have seen a phishing attempt come in through your email during this past week. Very few people have fallen for it, but it's a good time to remind everyone to be an internet skeptic. That is, don't believe everything that comes to you via the internet. A couple of tips to help you figure out if something you see is real: IT will never request your password via email (they already have it), and official communication from USU should come from a person or organization that you recognize.

President's Message:

Wednesday, April 9, 2008, marked the 15th Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon. It was delightful to see so many of you attending the luncheon in support of your colleagues and spouses who were honored for their 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service to Utah State University.

In addition, President Albrecht and Provost Coward presented Employee of the Year awards to several of our fellow professional employees. The recipients of this prestigious award were Sharon Weston, Center for Persons with Disabilities; Kathy Peterson, Electrical and Computer Engineering; and James Coburn, Department of Physics.

Please join with me in congratulating all of these people for their achievements and years of service. Well done!

Betsy H. Newman
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New PEA Member:

Welcome to Drake Rasmussen, who recently joined PEA. Drake is from Ogden, UT, and is now Director in the Bear River Activity & Skill Center of the CPD. He's married with one child, a girl. When asked about USU, he says:



"I came to USU because it was a great career opportunity plus USU is a great employer to work for and the benefits are excellent.

Upcoming Events:

Workplace Seminar Series

As part of the University Inn & Conference Center seminar series, next month's seminar will be given by Caroline Shugart, Wellness Coordinator here on campus. The topic is "Why Wellness Matters". It will be held Thursday, May 22, 2008 in the Eccles Conference Center. Please [RSVP online](#) or contact Chelsea Nelson x0089 if you have any questions.

Open Enrollment Kickoff

April 28 at 11:00 a.m. in the Ballroom will be the kickoff meeting for open enrollment for next year.

You may have seen that USU is introducing a new plan in addition to the Blue and White plans we have had for the past few years. It's a high deductible plan with a Health Savings Account (HSA). This plan has no monthly premium. You choose how much to put into your HSA, which works kind of like a Flex Spending account, except that you don't lose the money if you don't use it. Of course, it's a little more complicated than that, but come to the meeting to find out more details.

Probably the best news when it comes to changes this year is that preventive care will no longer be subject to the deductible for any of the three plans, including the new high deductible plan. Just a copay will be required.

Policies:

University Policy 552, Wireless Network Deployment

"My favorite thing about USU is interacting with a variety of people from all different departments. I enjoy the many resources available at USU, which makes it rare for us to have to look outside of USU to get what we need."

& Access, states that the IT department is committed to providing 100% wireless network coverage for all faculty, staff, students, and sponsored guests at USU, with full access to all network services USU offers. If you know of somewhere that coverage is missing, let the IT Service Desk know, 797-HELP.