

March 2008

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President's Message

Greetings! We are finally seeing glimpses of the sunshine here in Utah and springtime is quickly approaching. With the arrival of spring comes renewal and so it will be with PEA. We will be holding elections next month to choose the following representatives:



- President
- Vice President
- Chair, Professional Development
- Chair, University Relations
- Chair, Professional Relations

Serving on the PEA Executive Committee or as one of the Standing Committee Chairs provides you with many opportunities to more fully engage with your colleagues and the University administration. I have found my service time with our Association to be rewarding on numerous levels. I've met many of you I otherwise would not have interacted with and I have learned a great deal about the inner workings of Utah State and the Utah System of Higher Education. These experiences have been both enjoyable and challenging and I will cherish them for many years.

I encourage anyone who is interested in serving in one of these positions to submit a [nomination form](#). Now is your time to get involved.

PEA Annual Luncheon

Were you unable to attend the luncheon? [Read the comments](#) made by President Newman

Smoking

You may have read about the campus tobacco task force or the recent resolution passed by ASUSU, recommending that all tobacco be prohibited anywhere on campus. Current USU policy simply mirrors

Employee of the Quarter Award

Congratulations to Patti Kohler, a counselor in the Financial Aid office for being awarded Employee of the Quarter for Fall 2007 at the luncheon.



Higher Education Funding

Betsy Newman, PEA President, confirmed at this morning's Board of Trustees Meeting that USU employees will be receiving a 2% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective July 1, 2008. In addition, the Utah State Legislature also made available an additional 1% in funding for merit and retention.

See a [detailed summary](#) of how the Utah System of Higher Education fared during the legislative session.

Getting to know you...

Meet these new professional employees who have joined the PEA ranks over the past few months.

- Ryan Barfuss

current state law. So what do you think? Should smoking be banned? Is current policy fine just how it is? Could some restrictions be made to clean up certain areas of campus without removing it completely? Should smokeless tobacco be excluded as well? How could such a ban affect health insurance premiums?

On Tuesday, March 11, at 11:45 in the Senate Chambers in the TSC, as part of our Executive Committee meeting, we will be discussing this policy, but we need your input. If you come to the meeting, you can let us know what you think or you can email a statement beforehand to pea@usu.edu, which we will read at the meeting on your behalf if you cannot make it.

Based on discussion at this meeting, we will put together a ballot item to go along with the officer elections in April so we can let the administration know where PEA stands. There is no PEA position for or against any full or partial restrictions on campus tobacco use, sales, and advertising until you as PEA members let us know what your position is.

Are you ready?

The deadline is approaching quickly to [apply for a PEA Scholarship](#).

Spring forward this weekend. Daylight Savings Time begins earlier than usual.

Your [password](#) changes Monday. Are you ready?

- Celestyn Hollingshead
- Jared Johnson
- Mary Price
- Caroline Shugart

[Read more about them.](#)

Luncheon

We had a great luncheon this past week. Thanks to April Barker and Victoria Dutson, along with all their committee members for making the event a success. We enjoyed listening to President Albrecht speak to us. Thank you to all those sponsors who donated door prizes - a complete [list of sponsors](#) is available.

Several exemplary employees were honored at the luncheon for their service, attitude, and hard work. If you see **Morlyn Seamons, Paula Olsen, Michael Caron, Mary Lee Anderson, Heather Trauntvein, or Donna Minch** let them know you appreciate their positive influence at USU.

New Advisor of the Year

This year's recipient for the 2008 New Advisor of the Year is Michelle Bogdan. She has advised undeclared and general studies students within the University Advising Center for the past two years. Each year students are given an opportunity to nominate an advisor they feel has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Congratulate Michelle if you see her.

