

May 2008

In this issue of the newsletter, new PEA officers and next year's scholarship recipients are announced. It's open enrollment time, so if you need to change your health plan, now is the time to do it; plus you have to re-enroll in Flex Spending every year. If there is enough interest, the HPER pool may be open Wednesday mornings this summer.

New Officers Elected

President – **Doug Garrett**

Vice-President – **Lisa Leishman**

Professional Development Committee Chair – **Taya Flores**

University Relations Committee Chair – **Joe Vande Merwe**

Professional Relations Committee Chair – **Paige Geslin**

2008-2009 Scholarship Recipients

The PEA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the PEA Scholarship Recipients for 2008-09. Eight scholarships were awarded: four to graduate students for \$800 each and four undergraduate students for \$600 each.

Graduate: Rob Barton, Kathryn Bezzant, Bill Jensen, Jr., and Matt Lovell

Undergraduate: Amanda Corn, Kristin Howell, Bonnie Varga, and Nicholas Winn

The goal of the scholarship committee is to award more money to more students, but we need your help. We could increase annual donations by over \$10,000 if each professional employee, who are not contributing, were to donate just \$1.00 per month! Remember your contribution is pre-taxed. [Sign up to contribute through payroll deduction today.](#)

Summer Swimming

As you may know, during the summer, the HPER pool is not open during the morning for lap swimming like it is during the academic year. Caroline Shugart from the Wellness Center has offered to cover the cost of opening the HPER pool on Wednesday mornings during the summer from 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. for faculty and staff. In order to do it, however, we need a commitment from at least 6 people to

Upcoming Events:

Workplace Seminar Series

As part of the University Inn & Conference Center seminar series, this 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 is going on now.

There's about a month left to update your plan if necessary and re-enroll in Flex Spending. If you haven't ever signed up for Flex Spending, because you just don't think it's worth your time, sit down for a moment and calculate it out. If you make up to about \$30k, your marginal tax rate is about 15%; up to about \$75k, your marginal tax rate is about 25%. So if you spend \$1000 per year on medical expenses, you'll pay \$250 less in taxes. If you spend about ten minutes each month filling out and submitting the reimbursement form, that's \$100 per hour. Think about how much you spend per year on deductibles, copays, office visits, prescription medication, non-prescription medication, bandaids, contact lens solution, child care...yikes, this could add up to a lot more than \$1000 pretty quickly!

Border to Border Walk this Saturday

Cache Valley residents will have the opportunity to walk with national walking sensation Debra Flinn as she nears the completion of her 150-mile border-to-border Utah walk in Cache Valley on Saturday, May 17th. The Logan portion of her walk, which is held in conjunction with Logan City and the Utah State University Be Well program, will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Logan Recreation Center and follow a five-mile loop around the USU campus and Logan City before returning to the Recreation Center at 10:30.

Following the community five-mile walk, Flinn's route will continue to her final destination in Smithfield. By

swim consistently. If you are interested in swimming on Wednesday mornings, please let new vice president Lisa Leishman know via email at lisa.leishman@usu.edu.

Getting to know you:

S. Scott Barnes is the new Athletic Director. He is originally from Spokane. He and his wife have a son and a daughter. Scott's favorite thing so far about USU is the people. His favorite color is Aggie Blue and his favorite Aggie ice cream flavor is Cookie Dough. For more information on Scott, see the [press release](#).

Linda Smith Morse from Logan is the External Relations Director for the English department. She is married with 2 adopted kids at home. She has worked here for 20 years. Her favorite things about USU are the students and the cultural events. Her favorite color is Blue and her favorite Aggie ice cream flavor is Caramel Cashew.

the conclusion of her Utah walk in Cache Valley on May 17th, Flinn will have completed more than 3,000 miles in regional and local walks since June 2007. You may visit Debra's blog at debrawalksutah.blogspot.com for up-to-the-minute information about Debra's Utah walk and for further detail regarding events in Utah's communities.

Policies:

PEA Email Policy: The University Relations Committee has come up with a communication policy to help control the number of emails we send out to you each month. By standardizing when the monthly newsletter will be sent, organizations holding events on campus will have a set time to tell you about what's going on during the coming month, and the number of last minute, rushed notifications will be decreased. [Please visit the University Relations page for a copy of this policy.](#)