



In the News

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES ASSEMBLY



December 4, 2001

Volume 1, Issue 2

A Word from the CEA Chair

It's hard to believe that our year is passing by so quickly. As we finish up with the fall semester, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year. I would also ask that you take a moment to remember all those who can not be home with their families while they are away serving our country.

When we return to our jobs in January, refreshed and relaxed, I encourage your active participation in the affairs of the CEA and other University related events. Keep in mind nominations for CEA Employee of the Year and various CEA committees will also be asked for when we return. Additionally, I encourage everyone who is interested in increasing their professional growth to take advantage of the Enrichment Funds offered through the Classified Employees Assembly.

I continue to welcome any comments or suggestions you may have regarding the involvement or activities of the Classified Employees Assembly. Our involvement with the University is encouraged, and I hope that everyone in the CEA will find a way to participate. If everyone does a little, no one will have to do a lot.

Thanks, and have a great holiday!

Jeff Jenik
CEA Chairperson

Join the USCA Pacer Club

Reap the rewards of a little friendly competition and acquire a renewed sense of being part of a team by getting involved in the USCA Pacer Club. The Pacer Club is a nonprofit organization whose membership revenues are directed toward the support of athletic programs at the University. South Carolina law precludes the use of state appropriated funds for intercollegiate athletes; therefore, Pacer Club donations serve as a vital resource in maintaining a quality athletic program. By becoming a Pacer Club member, you can take part in this standard of excellence. Because the Pacer Club is a tax exempt organization, all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Membership is \$5 and includes up to four free tickets per home athletic contest, a Pacer athletic hat and a monthly Winner's Circle Newsletter. To join the Pacer Club, call 641-3486 or email Randy Warrick (randyw) with your request. Checks can be made payable to: The Pacer Club.



CEA Family Night

Show your Pacer Spirit by attending the USCA Pacer basketball double header Saturday, December 15th when the women's team faces Voorhees at 5:30 p.m. followed by the men's team, who will tip off at 7:30 p.m. against Carson-Newman. The USCA Pacer Club has graciously invited all CEA members to watch the games and then join them at the end of the women's game and at half time of the men's game at the Watering Hole located in the SAC cafeteria. The Watering Hole allows members of the Pacer Club a chance to converse with each other about the game or to catch up on other events in an informal atmosphere. Snacks will be provided along with soft drinks and some adult beverages. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please contact Jeff Jenik (jeffj x3258) no later than Wednesday, December 12, so we can have enough food for everyone. The cost will be \$5 per person, which will cover the food and beverage costs for both Watering Hole sessions. As a Classified Employee, admission to the games is free.



Today's Agenda

- I. Welcome/Approval of Sept. 6 Minutes
- II. Guest Speaker:
Kevin Alberse, Family Services
- III. Reports from Administration:
 - ↳ 2002 Budget Forecast
 - ↳ Strategic Planning Update
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business: Reports from the Chair
- VI. Announcements (Open Floor)

Faculty & Staff Appreciation Luncheon Committee

Each year the University hosts a Faculty & Staff Appreciation Luncheon that includes a tasty noon time meal as well as a variety of activities geared toward bringing Faculty and Staff together to illustrate the importance of each employee as part of the USCA family.

In the past the burden of planning and coordinating this event has fallen onto the capable shoulders of our Conference Center and Special Events/Campus Scheduling Department. This year, in order to involve more members of the family and to better assist our fellow staff members

in the Special Events Department, the CEA and the Faculty Assembly will appoint members to an Appreciation Luncheon Committee, who will work together in coordinating this event. The Chairperson for the committee is Karen Morris in Graduate Studies.



If you would like to volunteer for this committee or have suggestions for this year's Faculty & Staff Appreciation Luncheon, please contact Karen (karenm) at extension 3489 or contact a member of the CEA Executive Committee.



Holiday TIDBITS

The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.

In 1843, the first Christmas card was created on the instructions of an Englishman, Sir Henry Cole. J.C. Horsley designed the card and sold 1000 copies in London.

Hanukkah is one of the few times of the year when the rabbis permitted games of chance.

During Kwanzaa, families set out ears of corn to show how many children there are in the family. People without children set out one ear of corn to show that they are parents of their community.

The decorated Christmas tree can be traced back to the ancient Romans who decorated trees with small pieces of metal during Saturnalia, a winter festival in honor of Saturnus, the god of agriculture.

In the Chinese lunar calendar each of the 12 years is named after an animal. According to Legend, Lord Buddha asked all the animals to come to him before he left the earth. Only 12 animals came to wish him farewell, and as a reward Buddha named a year after each one. The Year of the Snake is 2001, and 2002 will be the Year of the Horse.

Kissing under the mistletoe dates back to a 17th century English custom. At that time, a berry was removed every time a kiss was made, which meant there were no kisses when there no berries.

One of the best known symbols of Hanukkah is the *Dreidel*. A dreidel is a four sided top with a Hebrew letter on each side.: *nun*, *gimel*, *hei*, and *shin*. Players would begin by "anteing" a certain number of coins, nuts, or other objects. Each one in turn would then spin the dreidel and proceed as follows: *nun* ("nichts")-take nothing; *gimel* ("ganz")-take everything; *hei* ("halb")-take half; *shin* ("shtell")-put in.



Season's Greetings

from the Classified Employees Assembly

Enrichment Funds

Each year the Aiken Partnership of the University of South Carolina Aiken allocates money to the Classified Employees Assembly to be dispersed to members who seek financial assistance for work-related enrichment purposes.

Applicants for these funds must be permanent classified employees contributing to the annual Family Fund, who intend to use funds under the following guidelines: travel to professional meetings, seminars and workshop fees, and tuition and book reimbursement for undergraduate and graduate courses at USCA and other area institutions of higher learning (limit one course per academic year, and a passing grade in the course must be attained).

The maximum amount of each award is decided upon on an individual basis each year, depending upon the amount of money raised or allocated for this purpose. Requests for enrichment funds are competitive and are judged on merit. For more information about criteria for acquiring enrichment funds or how to apply for them, please see the CEA website or contact Jeff Jenik, CEA Chairperson.



CEA Employee of the Year Award Nominations

With the holidays upon us, the CEA would like to remind you that the call for Classified Employee of the Year Award nominations is fast approaching. This annual award recognizes outstanding classified employees at USCA. The four employees selected will receive a cash award and will be recognized at the Annual University Honors and



Awards Convocation. Winners of the Classified Employee of the Year Award are selected under the following criteria: diligence and initiative in their work; cooperation with co-workers, students, etc.; employment by USCA for 2 years by January 1 of the award year. This award is based on Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 of the previous year only.

The call for nominations will be the fourth Friday in January with nominations being accepted through the second Friday in February. Nominations may come from any source other than self-nominations. Employees may obtain a nomination form through the CEA web page or, for those who do not have access to a computer, from various locations around campus. Employees should deliver nomination forms to the Chairperson of the CEA. Only official nomination forms will be accepted. For a more detailed explanation of the nomination process, please see our the CEA website or contact a member of the CEA Executive Committee.



Updates & Reminders

The annual Faculty/Staff Christmas Luncheon will take place December 20 at 12:00 in the Etherredge Center Lobby.

Classified Employees Assembly Dates:
 Friday, Feb. 8 at 2:00pm
 Wednesday, Apr. 17 at 10:00am



"You've been putting in a lot of over time this holiday season, Franklin, so you deserve some time off. Take an extra five minutes off early today."