



OPP “Segways” to the future

by Paul Ruskin

Physical Plant entered the future on Election Day 2004. As the nation was heading to the polling booth, OPP mechanics unloaded the mysterious human transport machines first developed three years ago by the maverick inventor, Dean Kamen.

Originally, the devices were known in the national media as “Project IT” and a little later as “Ginger.” Today they are known as Segway Human Transporters, and OPP employees use them to quietly glide across campus to their next assignment.

The Segways are already generating tremendous positive response from the University community. Students think they are “cool!” and realize that OPP workers who ride them must be pretty cool, too.

Alan Shaffer, an OPP maintenance employee who uses a Segway, said students are always impressed by the Segway and often comment on OPP’s efforts to help the environment.



Phillip Melnick, Assistant Director of Operations at OPP, tries out one of the new Segways.

OPP purchased the Segways to improve productivity and to promote environmental stewardship.

Currently, except for one unit assigned to the Physical Plant Building, all units are being used by Area Services trades people who previously traveled on foot.

Phillip Melnick, Assistant

Director of Operations, recognized early on the utility of the Human Transporters for OPP Operations. He has calculated the impact of the Segway on OPP efficiency, and concluded: “If our craftspeople save 20 minutes each day they use the Segway and are able to use them 200 days a year (both conservative estimates), we will save 67 hours per unit each year. This amounts to \$2,333 a year, and results in a very respectable two-year payback.” Phillip will be collecting data to confirm these assumptions.

Larry Mayes, Supervisor of Area Service 2, said Segways save a lot of time in the field. “One of my workers may get a call for a job in the Beam Building, then may have to leave there to deal with an emergency at Waring Commons, then may have to go to Keller Building and then Pattee Library,” he said. “I have one plumber for 35 facilities, and I really believe that we have found a very cost-effective and

F&B finalizes direction for 2005-2008

Finance & Business has finalized its Strategic Plan for 2005-2008, adding two new key initiatives that focus on the well-being of the employees and risk management for the organization.

The new Focus on People initiative emphasizes Finance & Business’s dedication to the wellness of its employees, offering many programs to help people remain healthy and to manage any disease or illness. Physical well-being is not the only aspect of this new concern, however. Employees’ emotional health and their satisfaction with Penn State as a place to work are major factors in sustaining a healthy and happy workforce.

In an attempt to identify and manage risks to the University before problems arise, Finance & Business is taking a proactive approach to Enterprise Risk



As I See It . . .

*Gary C. Schultz
Senior Vice President for Finance
& Business/Treasurer*

Strategic planning for any organization is a complicated task. Planning Finance & Business's strategic direction for

the upcoming three years was especially difficult given the fact that we are responsible for the operational and fiscal component of Penn State, one of the country's largest research universities.

As leaders of the university, we have to be mindful of everything from millions of square feet of facilities, to management of significant financial resources, to the well-being of each and every employee.

That is why I am excited about our 2005-2008 Strategic Plan. The plan sets a course for Finance & Business's future. Considerable input from unit leaders and staff was

gathered in developing this plan. In it, our organization reaffirms its commitment to the University, our employees, our customers, and the community.

Six key initiatives were identified for targeted development in the next three years: environmental stewardship, e-business, utilization of physical assets, enterprise risk management, focus on people, and a diverse work force. Each key initiative will again be led by a senior staff member within Finance & Business to ensure the success of each initiative. Over the last three years, our Key Initiative Managers have proven extremely effective in promoting the goals and objectives of the strategic plan. I am confident the next three years will produce the same results.

The leaders of the plan have been instrumental, but Finance & Business will again rely on the commitment and skills of you, the employees, for the continued success of this organization. Working together, I am confident we will successfully accomplish the goals presented in this strategic plan.

2005 Thon embracing dreams

“**E**mbracing Dreams – Sharing Tomorrow!” is the theme of this year's Penn State Dance Marathon to be held Feb. 18-20 at University Park's Rec Hall.

Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. Students receive pledges and dance 48 hours with no sitting and no sleeping to meet their fund-raising goal by “dancing two-days away.”

All pledges and donations benefit The Four Diamonds Fund, Conquering Childhood Cancer, and the Penn State Children's Hospital in

Hershey.

This year more than 230 organizations and 700 students will participate in the marathon, with hopes of surpassing last year's \$3.5 million raised. Penn State has come a long way since the Dance Marathon originated in 1973 with only 17 dancers and \$2,000 raised.

Even with the great advances in the past 30 years, Penn State students still need your help. The Annual Fund and Lion Line needs volunteers to help answer phones over Thon Weekend. During this time, Thon's “1-800” number will be transferred to the Lion Line office and volunteers are

needed to take pledges over the phone. Times are available in two-hour (or more) shifts: Friday, Feb. 18, 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 19, 8-10 a.m., and Sunday, Feb. 20, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. No experience is necessary, just a pleasant phone manner, and a desire to help the kids. Detailed instructions will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lauren Steinberg at 814-863-5892 or 888-800-9163.

You can support the dancers and volunteers by attending Thon anytime throughout the weekend. Parking is available in the lots across Atherton Street

by Rec Hall.

To make a contribution, simply fill out the form in this issue and drop it in Campus Mail.



For more information about Thon, visit the Web site, www.THON.org.



Strategic Plan

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Management. This new initiative focuses on ways to deal with risks proactively and recognize the ramifications about the risks within Finance & Business and across the University. Often, people only think of insurance and liability risks, but Finance & Business is working to broaden its definition of risk, including the financial and reputational risks to the University, with the goal of staying ahead of the curve and serving as the benchmark for all units at the University to follow when dealing with potential risks.

Four existing initiatives from the 2002-2005 Strategic Plan were retained and carried over to the 2005-2008 period as they were viewed as necessary for the continued success and direc-

tion of Finance & Business. The 2005-2008 Key Initiatives include Environmental Stewardship, Physical Assets, E-Business, Diverse Workforce, and the two new initiatives, Focus on People and Enterprise Risk Management.

“The new strategic plan embodies the values and mission of Finance & Business as we move into the 21st century,” said Gary Schultz, Senior Vice President for Finance & Business/Treasurer. “The four existing initiatives are extremely important for the continued success of Finance & Business, and the two new initiatives provide a holistic approach to protecting the well-being of our employees and the organization as a whole through risk management.”

One initiative from 2002-2005, Expenditure Control and Operational Efficiency, was identified by Finance & Business as operational, meaning that it has become accepted as part of our organization’s culture. Even though it is not listed as a key initiative in the 2005-2008 plan, it remains an important component of Finance & Business and will continue its role in the organization.

In addition to the six key initiatives, the 2005-2008 plan includes internal reallocation funding requests, University-wide funding requests, and Finance & Business strategic indicators.

To review the entire 2005-2008 Strategic Plan, go to Finance & Business’s Web site at <http://www.psu.edu/oldmain/fab/> and click on the “Strategic Plan” button. ■

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Access the 2005-2008 Strategic Plan at <http://www.psu.edu/oldmain/fab/>



Culinary Gold

Penny Shade part of winning team

Penny Shade, Food Preparer A from Penn State Schuylkill Food Services, was part of the four-person team that won the gold medal in the Culinary Competition at the World Chef Culinary Conference in Amherst, Mass., in 2004.

Penny has worked for Food Services since November 2000.

The conference is billed by the Nation’s Restaurant News as one of the best educational conferences for college chefs and managers. This year’s conference featured the flavors of Spain, India and Thailand, in addition to examining the popular low-carb and vegetarian diet, as well as staging a pastry artistry workshop. ■

Segways

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efficient way to do things better.”

When the maintenance workers walk from building to building with 20 to 30 pounds of equipment in a backpack, they become tired and less productive by the end of the day, and the Segways help solve that problem.

Segways are totally electric and don’t use any gas, but if they did, their equivalent mileage would be about 450 miles per gallon. They fill that middle niche between walking and driv-

ing and still carry about 75 pounds of tools. Their quiet operation and zero emissions help to reduce campus noise and air pollution. They don’t take up much parking room, and five or six Segways are about the same price as a typical OPP van.

Segways are extremely maneuverable and they also raise the rider up in the air providing a good view over the heads of everyone else in the area, making navigation easy. The Segway can fit in most places where you

might walk, but it will get there faster, and carry most tools needed for smaller repair assignments.

Segway Human Transporters have been adopted by a number of other universities, including Carnegie Mellon University, Louisiana Tech and Stanford University, as well as police departments in cities from Seattle to Atlanta, and the U.S. Postal Service, the National Park Service, and General Electric. ■

Chris Walk spends typical, but never ordinary days at PSU

by Toni Duchi

The very foundation of Penn States's employee base is made up of "locals," the people who were born and raised in the Centre Region and who typically occupy the behind-the-scenes jobs that keep the University running smoothly; Chris Walk is one of those employees. She is the long-time staff assistant for Penn Stater administrators Jim Purdum, General Manager, and Mike Conti, Associate



Chris Walk

General Manager.

Chris has been at the University for 20 years, starting in 1984 at the Pennsylvania

Transportation Institute as a staff assistant. She began with Hospitality Services in 1985. In five years, she will be eligible to retire, at the age of 40 something, with plenty of time for another career. With a mischievous smile, Chris says, "I probably won't retire in five years; we'll see how it goes." This is the one thing you notice about Chris immediately – she tells it like it is, but with the wisdom and finesse of a seasoned professional.

A typical day for Chris in Hospitality Services is both controlled and chaotic at the same time. She says, "Jim is very organized and my day revolves around his schedule. But also I have to be ready for the unexpected. In fact, managing his schedule, phone calls, and appointments take up most of my day. Literally no two days are ever the same."

To read the entire article, go to <http://www.psu.edu/oldmain/fab/>



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