



eBusiness Team Celebrates Successes, Plans Future Initiatives

The eBusiness team has been finding ways to make Penn State a more efficient place since eBusiness was first identified as a Finance & Business Key Initiative in 2001.

Providing better service to students, customers, faculty, and staff is “the key” to the initiative, says Rich Pearce, director of business and finance for Auxiliary & Business Services and manager of the eBusiness Key Initiative. The team’s primary goal is to make life better for all Penn Staters by finding ways to streamline the University’s business practices and provide convenient online services to students, faculty, staff, and University departments.

Rich lists the Employee Self-Service Information Center (ESSIC) and the eBuy e-procurement system as some of Finance & Business’ most important accomplishments. With ESSIC, he says, employees can review and change their benefit information, see all of their paychecks, and see year-to-date tax information online. “To have that available for our employees was really important,” Rich says. eBuy also has important benefits for all University departments because it takes advantage of Penn State’s negotiated contract pricing and enables online catalog ordering for departmental users through Penn State-designated catalogs. This results in improved operating efficiencies within Penn State departments, including Purchasing and Accounts Payable. Additional benefits include the aggregation and leveraging of University-wide volume for products and/or services to further reduce costs to University departments. More than 45,000 orders totaling \$12.4 million were procured by 4,500 departmental users in eBuy’s first year.

But it’s the improvements to student services that

may have the biggest impact, Rich points out, because they support President Spanier’s vision of a student-centered university. “There are a number of initiatives where Finance & Business has made life better for students by having an online presence,” Rich says. Students can perform a number of functions online, includ-

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Ken Babe to Retire after 41 Years with Penn State

Ken Babe, who has served as the University’s corporate controller for the past 21 years, has announced that he will retire on March 31, 2007.

Ken has held a number of positions during his 41-year career at Penn State, including accountant, assistant controller, and assistant vice president for audits and internal controls. He was appointed corporate controller in 1986.

“Penn State is a great place to work and State College is a wonderful place to raise a family,” Ken says.

As a member of the Penn State Investment Council and Central Investment Group, Ken helps to manage the University’s endowment of more than \$1 billion. He also manages the University’s debt, oversees risk management and insurance programs, and ensures that the University is in compliance with a myriad of laws and accounting rules and regulations.



Ken Babe will retire on March 31.

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As I See It . . .

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

One of our goals in Finance & Business is to make life better for Penn State employees and students. In this issue, you'll learn more about some of the programs of which we're particularly proud.

The first is our eBusiness Key Initiative. The members of the eBusiness team have helped develop and launch several highly successful programs, including the eBuy e-procurement system and the eLiving Housing Contract System. Both programs have helped cut down

on paperwork and have led to increased efficiencies across the University.

The Office of Human Resources is responsible for a number of important programs that support our mission. Human Resources provides child care subsidies to low-income student-parents through the Work/Life Programs Office, and offers support to job seekers with disabilities through the Opportunity Network for Employment (ONE) program. Both of these programs recently received additional funding so they can continue to offer their valuable services.

As you set goals for the coming year, I encourage you to think about how your work supports our organization's mission. Look for ways that you can make a difference—and then look for ways to make your ideas happen.

Child Care Subsidy Program Helps Student-Parents Balance School and Family

By Stephanie Zezzo

We hear commercials everywhere encouraging companies to provide “people-centered service.” At Penn State, our customers are the students—as President Spanier has said, we should be a student-centered university. And, looking at our student demographics, it is evident that not every freshman arriving this fall moved into the residence halls at age 18 and not every senior graduates at age 22. According to the Office of Student Aid, more than 3,000 students returning to Penn State arrived with a calculator, a computer, and . . . a child.

The Work/Life Programs Office in the Office of Human Resources offers student-centered service through a program that provides child care subsidies to qualifying low-income student-parents. The program, which serves undergraduate and graduate student-parents at all 24 Penn State campuses, relies on federal, student, and local funding.

The federal funds are in the form of a Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant that the Work/Life Programs Office received from the U.S. Department of Education in October 2005. Only 26 percent of the colleges and universities that applied for the grant were chosen to receive funding, which averaged about \$66,500 per institution. Penn State's \$1.2 million four-year award was an increase of \$80,000 over its previous CCAMPIS award,

and was the largest amount given to any institution. The funds will be distributed to the licensed and accredited child care providers who care for the children of low-income student-parents on Penn State campuses and in surrounding communities.

Additional funds for the program come from student activity fee allocation committees at five campuses. During the 2006–2007 fiscal year, the University Park Allocation Committee will provide \$70,000 to support student-parents at University Park. Penn State Altoona, Penn State Behrend, Penn State Fayette, and Penn State York will also allocate funding to support their student-parents.

The Work/Life Programs Office collaborates with local organizations such as the United Way, Stand Together Inc., Child Care Information Services, and Family Care Solutions Inc. to provide additional services and funding to meet student-parents' child care needs. The student-parents' requests vary, but many need part-time, full-time, or after-school care for their children, while others need child care only during midterms or finals.

The Work/Life Programs Office will continue to support the Finance & Business motto: “Quality Service, Quality People.” We are starting with one student at a time and hope that by graduation, we have helped not only a student, but also a family and our community.

For more information about Penn State's child care subsidy programs, visit www.ohr.psu.edu/WorkLife/ChildSub.cfm or contact Stephanie L. Zezzo at 800-746-6759.

Alumni Donate to Opportunity Network for Employment Program

By Marianne Karwacki

It wasn't business as usual at the advisory board meeting of Penn State's Opportunity Network for Employment (ONE) program on October 31, 2006. In addition to updating board members about the number of people with disabilities that obtained employment through the program and describing special projects the program sponsored to benefit individuals with disabilities, ONE program coordinator Marianne Karwacki introduced Peter Rotelle and Keith Miller to the board.

Peter Rotelle and Keith Miller are two very special Penn State alumni. Peter and Keith were grief-stricken when David Lioen, their good friend

and former roommate, lost his battle with depression in 2005. To honor David's memory, Keith participated in the Nightmare Tour, a one-day, 175-mile annual bike ride around the hilly perimeter of Pennsylvania's Lancaster County. Keith donated the \$5,000 he raised in the 2005 Nightmare Tour to the ONE program, and Peter matched the funds Keith raised to bring the total donation to \$10,000.

Keith also participated in the Nightmare Tour the following year, on August



From left: Peter Rotelle; Marianne Karwacki, coordinator of the ONE program; Billie Willits, associate vice president for Human Resources; and Keith Miller.

19, 2006, once again designating the ONE program to be the recipient of his fund-raising efforts. By the end of October 2006, \$1,400 had been donated to support Keith's bike ride. That amount increased dramatically when Keith and Peter presented a check for \$20,000 to the ONE program at the advisory board meeting.

At the meeting, Keith and Peter also shared information about 2enlight, a nonprofit charity they are creating in David's memory. 2enlight will focus on increasing awareness and fighting to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness. The flagship project of 2enlight will be an annual bike ride to raise money for the ONE program.

By raising money for the ONE program and founding 2enlight, Keith and Peter have honored the memory of their friend while benefiting individuals with disabilities. David Lioen would undoubtedly approve.

For more information on the ONE program, visit www.ohr.psu.edu/diversity/services/one.cfm.

eBusiness Team Update

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ing electronically signing Perkins student loans, using the online housing contract process, adding funds to a LionCash+ account, making meal plan changes, registering for parking, and getting a fitness pass. This cuts down on processing time for the units, Rich says, and makes things easier for the student: there is no long line to wait in or cumbersome paperwork to complete.

What's next for eBusiness? Rich notes that current projects include expanding the eBuy program and launching an online reimbursement-processing program, among other things. “We will continue to identify eBusiness initiatives that will leverage investments in technology with a maximum value in cost savings,” he says, adding that future initiatives will also “create efficiencies in operations, generate revenue growth, and provide increased student and customer satisfaction.”

Ken Babe to Retire

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Ken serves on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania College of Technology and is treasurer of the Nittany Insurance Company and the Research Park Hotel Corporation. He holds similar positions at several other local organizations, including the Ben Franklin Technology Center of Central and Northern PA, where he is assistant treasurer.

Ken served in the Army and later earned a B.S. in accounting and an M.P.A., both from Penn State. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Ken lives in State College with his wife of 48 years, Mona. They have two children, both Penn State graduates, and five grandchildren.

Kathy Krinks Receives MACUHO Award

On November 2, 2006, Kathy Krinks, assistant director of Housing, received the 2006 David G. Butler Distinguished Service Award from the Mid-Atlantic Association of College & University Housing Officers (MACUHO). The award, which recognizes Kathy's outstanding contributions to the organization, was presented in Ocean City, Maryland, during MACUHO's Annual Conference.



Kathy Krinks with her award.

Special Recognition

• **Eric Charles** and **Nicklaus Giacobe** received Citizen's Commendations from University Police for responding quickly and effectively when a Penn State student collapsed near Sparks Building on October 16, 2006. Stephanie Lowenstein, an applications programmer/analyst in the University Budget Office, performed CPR on the student until emergency personnel arrived.

• University Police Officers **Michael Tilden** and **Sean Gorman** received their diplomas and police certifications from the Indiana 60 Police Academy on November 17, 2006. Michael was named class valedictorian and Sean was recognized for scoring the highest in the class on the shotgun range and on the written firearms exam.

Hospitality Services Web Site Wins International Award

Penn State Hospitality Services recently received a bronze Adrian Award for its Web site from the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMIA). The Adrian Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements in hospitality and tourism marketing, attracts hundreds of entrants from around the world.

The Hospitality Services Web site was created by SECURE-RES, an Internet marketing firm that specializes in the hospitality industry.

Visit the award-winning Web site at www.pshs.psu.edu.

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