



A&F NEWS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

By Cornelius Wooten, Ph.D.



REFLECTIONS Administration and Finance Division

In the hustle and bustle of our normal work-day, oftentimes we may lose sight of why we exist as a division. With tight budgets, the demands on each of us continue to escalate. So, periodically I am inclined to pose the questions:

- As a division, who are we?
- Why do we exist?

The Administration and Finance Division is a diverse organization. Our division comprises more than 30 units and departments. We provide a broad array of services and support to the university community. We exist mainly to support the mission and goals of IUP.

We are laborers; skilled trades-people; clerical and administrative support staff members; accounting, budget, and financial staff members; human resource and facilities professionals; police and public safety officers; procurement personnel; managers; and various other professionals. We come to IUP from different walks of life and with different backgrounds, experiences, outlooks, expectations, religious beliefs, and values. We are parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends, neighbors, community leaders, and volunteers.

By contrast, or comparison, we are like an orchestra. Working together, we make "music." Our music utilizes different skills and expertise, enabling IUP to have an impact on the lives of students, the local community, the region, and the state. As a professional support organization, we are **ENABLERS**.

I stand behind this "enabler" reference because as a division we make it possible for IUP to function as a very reputable higher education institution.

Administration and Finance Division, as Enablers:

We are accountable.
We are adaptable—embrace change.
We are caring.
We are creative.
We are problem solvers.
We are productive.
We are professional service providers.
We are proud—pride in the workplace.
We are service oriented.
We are a team.

Administration and Finance Division—your thoughts? I would like to hear from you.

"It is better to attempt something great and fail than attempt to do nothing and succeed."

"Dreams are extremely important. You can't do it unless you imagine it."

The Central Storeroom and What We Can Offer You, Our Campus Customers

By Michele L. Fatora, Central Stores

Hot Shot Services

Do you have an urgent need for a package to be delivered across campus or to one of the satellite campuses? Do you need to have something picked up from or delivered to a local vendor? Do you have an urgent need for an item from the Central Storeroom? If you answered yes to any of these questions, our Central Stores' Hot Shot service may be just what you need.

Central Stores' speedy Hot Shot service is available weekdays to all campus customers. Services include pickups from and deliveries to local and not-so-local vendors; as-needed trips to the Punxsutawney, Northpointe, and Monroeville sites; and on-campus pickups and deliveries. In fact, if a customer has an urgent need, he or she may contact our Hot Shot driver, Bob Zack, directly to request his services. Bob may be reached by phone at 724-357-3015 or 724-549-4048, or via e-mail at rzack@iup.edu. Of course, customers may also enter a work order to request such services.

For more information on services available through the Central Storeroom, please visit our website at www.iup.edu/centralstores.

Relocation of the Surplus Properties/Inventory Control Office

The Surplus Properties/Inventory Control Office, overseen by Walt Gill, has been relocated to the counter area of the Central Storeroom. A bell has been placed in the surplus/reissue area so that customers who come to that location may alert Storeroom personnel when service is needed. Customers may go directly to the Storeroom counter.

Walt Gill may be contacted by phone at 724-357-7569 or via e-mail at waltgill@iup.edu. Customers may also contact the Central Storeroom directly at 724-357-4074.

If you have never visited the surplus/reissue area, I encourage you to stop down, look around, and perhaps find that missing treasure for your office.

Implementation of PeopleAdmin

By Judy Gallo, Director of Human Resources

The Office of Human Resources is excited to announce that it is beginning the implementation of the online employment application system. *PeopleAdmin* was selected as the vendor, and we are working with the company to analyze our hiring procedures and create a new, improved process that will ultimately replace paper applications.

*Some of the **benefits*** that applicants, hiring supervisors, and academic departments will enjoy with our new online application system are

- increased efficiency and timeliness in processing employment applications;
- increased accessibility to the application and its status by both the job seeker and the hiring department;
- immediate availability for the hiring department to review and take action on applications;
- immediate confirmation of receipt with a message to the applicant as to whether he or she meets the minimum qualifications for the position;
- ability of the applicant to track the status of his or her application on a daily basis.

Training for IUP employees will be offered prior to implementation, and we anticipate going live with the system late spring or summer 2012. Updates will be provided as work progresses.

Cogeneration at IUP: The First 60 Years

By Mark Labant, Cogeneration Manager

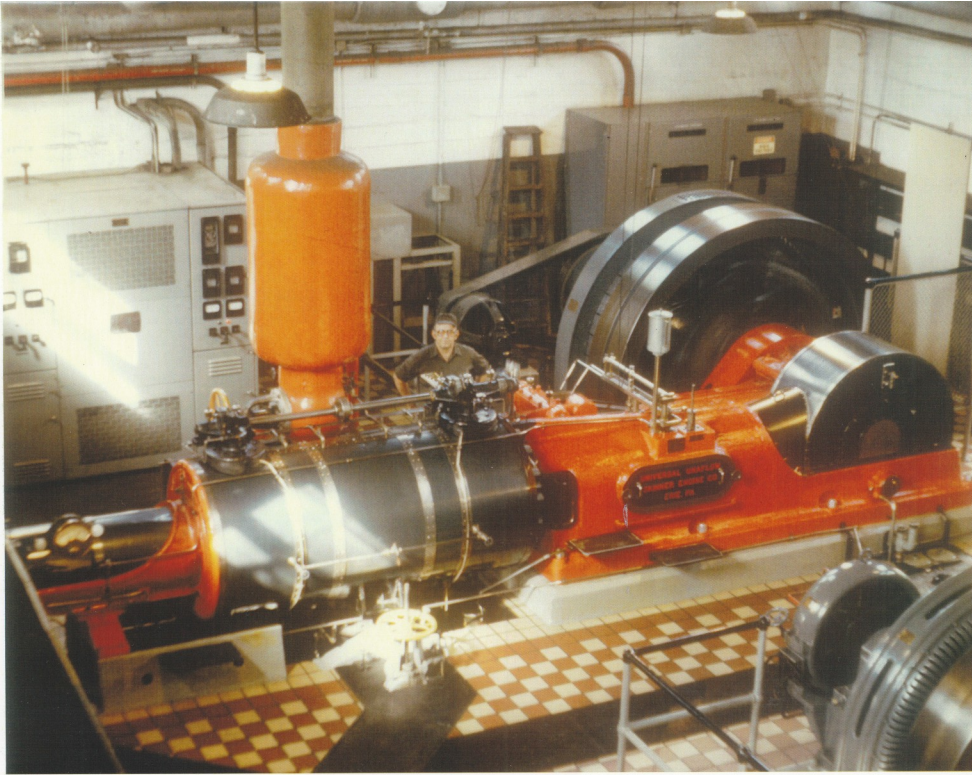
During a recent search for a misplaced credit card, several historical documents and drawings were discovered in the back of an old file cabinet in the Cogeneration Plant. The documents were dated between April 15, 1926, and July 3, 1933, and they related to the reciprocating steam-operated power generation equipment purchased from the Skinner Engine Company of Erie, Pa., and installed at the Indiana State Teachers College. Two of the engines were installed in 1927 and a third unit was added in 1933. Five current Cogeneration Plant employees who came on board at IUP as far back as the mid-1970s remember the engines and had hands-on experience operating and maintaining them. One recalls a story passed down about the famed model steam engine designer and manufacturer Thomas Jensen. It seems Mr. Jensen would often visit the plant on weekends and sit beside steam engine No. 3 for hours at a time listening to the operational clatter of the steam valves, pistons, and connecting rods.

The term “cogeneration” first came into popular use in the late 1980s. It referred to the process of capturing the waste steam produced as a by-product of electric power generation and using it for heating and other practical purposes. From the old documents found recently, we now know that IUP applied the cogeneration principle some 60 years before the S.W. Jack Cogeneration Plant went into service in 1988. Few people today realize that successful energy conservation practices have been in place on campus for nearly 85 years.

The two 120-kilowatt Skinner steam engines installed in 1927 had a combined electrical power generating capacity of 240kw. The third Skinner engine, installed in 1933, had 60 percent more capacity than the two earlier units. This new engine added another 350kw to the school’s generating capacity, for a total of 540kw. The waste steam discharged from the engines in the course of producing electricity was transported through steam pipes and used to heat such buildings as Sutton Hall and Fisher Auditorium.

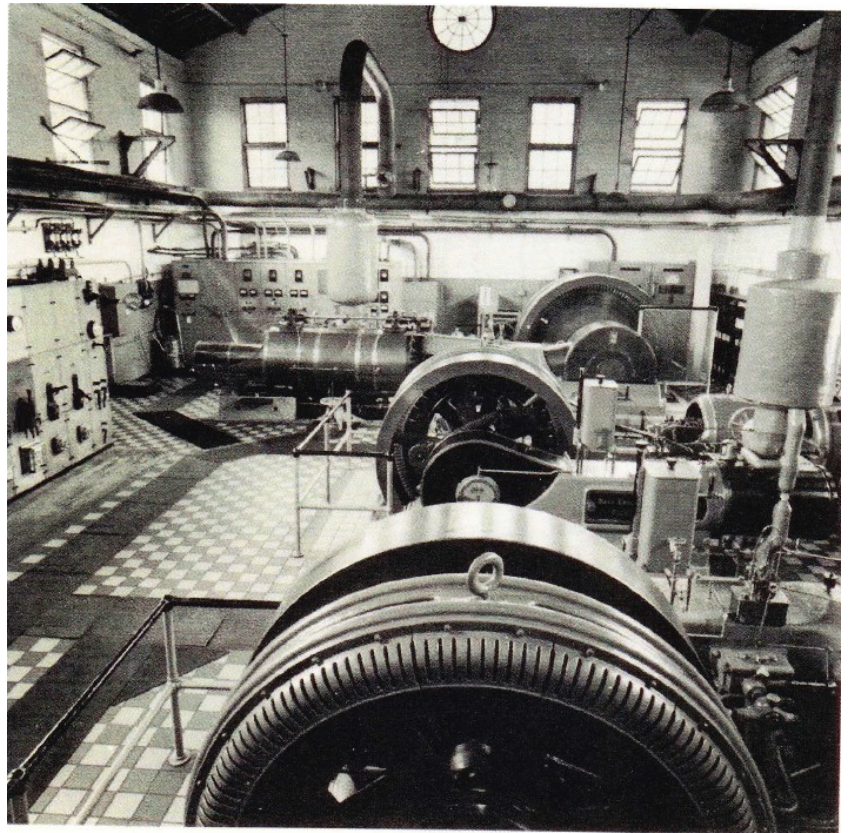
Over time, however, as the school continued to grow, the 540kw of electrical power that the three Skinner engines supplied could no longer meet the campus demand. The Skinner units were decommissioned in 1986 to make way for the installation and 1988 start-up of the university’s current 24-megawatt cogeneration plant. A 14-inch low pressure steam line, now out of service, is the only item remaining from the days of the Skinner engines. The engine room that once housed three gleaming Skinner steam engines is now void of engines and currently houses water conditioning equipment used to treat the plant’s boiler water.

Although the three massive Skinner steam engines have been reincarnated into Hondas and Toyotas many times over, their memory remains with those once responsible for their operation and maintenance.



The engineer shown operating the large Skinner steam engine is Myron Porter. Mr. Porter began his career with the Pennsylvania Railroad, working as a fireman on steam locomotives. He devoted the final years of his work life to operating IUP's three Skinner steam engines.

Photo courtesy of plant operator, Paul Zolocsik



The reciprocating steam-operated power generators manufactured by the Skinner Engine Company of Erie, Pa., once produced both electric power and steam heat for the IUP campus.

Photo courtesy of plant operator, Paul Zolocsik

University Police—Looking a Little Younger These Days

By Sam Clutter, Director, Public Safety and University Police

A number of personnel changes have occurred in the Public Safety and University Police Department over the past few years. Some of our older officers have moved on to retirement. They will, however, be remembered for their years of devotion and service to the IUP community and will be missed by our Public Safety family. Yet, good things often happen after great folks move on. New faces begin to appear, and they each bring with them new and different ways of enriching the organization.

Big changes occurred in 2010 with the retirement of William P. (Bill) Montgomery, who led the department for more than 20 years. Eugene Pounds retired in June 2010 after 34 years of service to the commonwealth. Gene's most recent assignment was serving as the lieutenant in charge of Parking Services. In previous years, he held various supervisory positions in the department. Greg Davis, also a fixture in the police department, retired in January 2011. Known as Lieutenant Davis to the university community, and Lieutenant Colonel Davis to the U.S. Army, Greg provided leadership to the university community in many capacities and was known to many for his friendly smile and engaging manner. Officers Bill Strong and Lenny Jendreski also retired after many successful years in campus law enforcement. Bill retired in July 2011, and Lenny in November 2011. Both have plans for new and interesting exploits in this next phase of their lives.

Four new patrol officers were hired in the past two years. Officer **Frank Mehalko** was hired and assigned to the Punxsutawney campus in December 2009. More recently, Frank relocated to the main campus and is currently working the 3:00 to 11:00 p.m. shift. Officer **Brandon Mytrysak** was hired in November 2009, coming to IUP from the Indiana County Sheriff's Department. Officer **Stacey Burnosky** was hired in July 2011. Stacey formerly served with the University of Pittsburgh police department at Pitt's Johnstown campus, as well as with the Paint Township Police. Officer **Chris Rearick** came on board in August 2011. Chris came to us from the Indiana County Sheriff's Department.

Recent hires include officers **Josh Abernathy**, **Matt Panigal**, and **Brian Bradford**. Josh will be working as the residential officer focused on nightly patrols in the residence hall facilities. Matt is currently a shift officer serving on the 3:00 to 11:00 p.m. shift, and Brian is assigned to the Punxsutawney campus.

We in the University Public Safety and Police Department extend a hearty welcome to the new members of our team and wish all the best to those who have retired. Please say hello to the new officers and welcome them to the university community.



By Amy White, Director of Marketing, Kovalchick Complex

Spring 2012 promises an entertaining variety of colorful events for all show-goers, convention seekers, and thrill enthusiasts. Tickets for the shows listed below are on sale now at the Kovalchick Complex Box Office, by phone at 800-298-4200, or online at www.KovalchickComplex.com.

Country Music's "Chief" Eric Church, with special guest Brantley Gilbert, announced his 2012 "Blood, Sweat, and Beers Tour," which will be playing at the Kovalchick Complex on March 3. Church brings his newly announced tour to more than 50 cities in 2012, and his stop in Indiana, Pa., will be before a *sold-out* crowd.

Bad Boys of Arenacross Pro National will rev their engines through the Kovalchick Complex, March 16-18, for the final race of the 2012 series. The world's best Arenacross riders will compete for the national championship.

Second-place finisher from 2011, Steve Roman from Apollo, Pa., will also compete for the blue ribbon. Says Roman: "Last year I followed the Bad Boys series all over to places like Charlotte, Chicago, and clear down to Texas and Oklahoma. My finishes ended me up in a battle with Team Honda Kurt McCabe from Iowa and other Super Cross and Arenacross nationally ranked riders."

Prepare to step into a world of wonder where wishing is only the beginning and dreams really do come true in *Disney Live! Presents Three Classic Fairy Tales*. Mickey, Minnie, Donald, and Goofy will bring the timeless fairytale adventures of *Cinderella*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* to life right here in Indiana on April 1, with show-times at 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. Featuring dynamic storytelling, award winning music, stunning costumes, and glittering special effects, these spellbinding stories will captivate audiences with their humor, fun, and adventure.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Presents Barnum Bash introduces the Ringling Bros. Ringlettes, the stylish hosts of the swankiest circus party in town. The Ringlettes are ready to invite children of all ages to the hippest circus spectacular that the "Greatest Show On Earth" has ever produced, and it is coming to town April 12-15.

The fun begins as soon as the audience enters Ringling Bros. Presents Barnum Bash, with a rockin' pre-show party directly on the arena floor. Party-goers can learn fresh dance moves from Ringling Bros. clown DJ Dean, update their personal style with glitzy costumes, learn balancing and juggling skills, meet and take photos with circus stars, and even step behind the curtain for an exclusive backstage experience that includes an up-close look at the most exotic animal menagerie around-only at Barnum Bash.

The Kovalchick Conference Center has become the Indiana County Technology Center's training hub for Halliburton. It has accommodated interview sessions and training seminars, with more than two months of block meetings already booked for Spring 2012. The 17,000 square feet of space has been in high demand since the opening of the building in March 2011. Along with a health and wellness expo, Global Spectrum looks forward to the all-employee S&T Bank event in February, the Lezzer Lumber contractor show in March, and another successful IUP commencement in May.

Global Spectrum (www.global-spectrum.com) manages the Kovalchick Complex, as well as more than 100 other public assembly facilities around the world. Nearly 20 million people attended more than 11,000 events in Global Spectrum venues last year. Based in Philadelphia, Global Spectrum is a member of the Comcast-Spectacor family, one of the world's largest presenters of sports and entertainment events.

Planning for Your Future

By Richard P. White, Director of Financial Operations

It's 2012! Can you believe it? Another calendar year lies ahead, and 2011 is history. January 1 marked the halfway point in IUP's 2011-2012 fiscal year, and in six months we will be in the middle of another fiscal year end closing. Fast on its heels will be the Fall semester opening, then the 2012 holiday season and then...2013! Time is flying, and, through it all, we are planning, planning, planning. We plan our work schedules, our vacations, our holidays, and our three-day weekends. We plan our breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We make plans for ourselves and include other family and friends in those plans. Unfortunately, many of us, if not most of us, fail to plan for the inevitable. In the financial planning profession, this is referred to as "end-of-life" planning.

End-of-life planning is a serious and sobering subject, as it forces us to contemplate our own mortality. Yet having a good plan in place with the proper documentation can bring peace of mind, because we know that our financial affairs, medical needs, and personal care will be attended to as we wish by a dependable person we trust.

An end-of-life plan should include (1) a financial power of attorney, (2) a health care power of attorney, (3) a living will, and (4) a last will and testament. Each of these documents is designed to address specific issues and circumstances involved in handling various aspects of our personal affairs.

A financial power of attorney appoints a financial agent to pay your bills using your money, make deposits into your account, and manage your investments. Through the financial power of attorney, your financial agent is empowered to do anything with your financial assets that you can do yourself, including selling your home or car, cashing CDs, and gifting property. Therefore, the selection of an agent should be given careful consideration. The person you select may be any adult you trust to be honest, dependable, and responsible, and to always act in your best interest.

A health care power of attorney appoints a person to serve as your health care agent. This person will make health care decisions on your behalf in the event that you cannot understand the medical alternatives available to you, or you cannot communicate a decision to the health care provider. Under the health care power of attorney, the health care agent is authorized to make decisions for you on such matters as the selection and discharge of a health care provider, the approval of diagnostic tests, surgical procedures, and medication programs, in addition to decisions concerning the initiation, continuation, and withdrawal of life support, including instructions not to resuscitate. As with the selection of a financial agent, your selection of a health care agent should be given much forethought and careful consideration.

The provisions of a living will are much narrower in scope than those of a health care power of attorney and are applicable only when you enter into an end-stage medical condition or become permanently unconscious as determined by your physician. A living will provides direction as to the level of medical treatment you desire once you enter into such a condition. Generally, a living will documents your wishes to be kept comfortable and to be given medication to relieve pain, but not to be given medical treatment to prolong the dying process. Because of this much narrower applicability, adequate planning should include both a living will and a health care power of attorney.

The powers and responsibilities bestowed by the financial power of attorney, health care power of attorney, and living will are terminated upon death, and the terms of the will then go into effect. The last will and testament provides for the distribution of your assets and the settlement of your debts after your life has ended. A last will and testament appoints an executor responsible for carrying out the terms and conditions of your last will. Among other things, the last will may provide for the continuing care of minor children and/or pets and direct the issuance of gifts to charities, the transfer of specific assets to specific beneficiaries, and the creation of trusts. It may also provide for the payment of inheritance taxes.

In end-of-life planning, considerable effort and attention are often required to shape and prepare your financial power of attorney, health care power of attorney, living will, and last will and testament. Everyone's situation and desires are different, the options are many, and all such documents must be carefully tailored to achieve the desired results.

The information in this article is not offered as legal advice. It is provided only as general information on a topic of interest to many employees. To prepare your own end-of-life plan, seek assistance from a qualified attorney or certified public accountant.

Happy 2012, and best wishes as you continue to plan!

Riding to the Sky on Mt. Washington, New Hampshire

By Ray Wygonik, Director of Engineering and Construction

Visiting theme parks and man-made venues are often part of our family's vacation plans, but nothing can compare with the awe and grandeur that Mother Nature provides. The trip that should be on everyone's bucket list is the "Ride to the Sky" to the top of Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. Officially the Ride to the Sky should be done on a motorcycle, but any method of getting to the top is worth both the effort and a check on the bucket list.

Mt. Washington is located in the Presidential Range of the White Mountains in the northern handle of New Hampshire. It is notable for many reasons: It is the highest peak in the Northeastern United States, it is the location of the highest wind gusts directly measured at the Earth's surface, and it is famous for dangerously erratic weather, being at the convergence of several weather tracks.

There are numerous hiking trails that will take you to the top of Mt. Washington, most notably the Appalachian Trail (and you don't have to start in North Carolina). If hiking is too aggressive, you can ride to the top on a steam-powered cog railroad, a miniature train that literally pulls itself to the top with a large gear running on a third, centered cogged rail. The most popular method is the Mt. Washington Auto Road, an eight-mile, switch back mountain road opened in 1861 and running from the valley floor to the top of the mountain. But it's not a road for the faint of heart.



Visitors can ride to the top of Mt. Washington on a cog railway that runs on the steepest tracks in North America. The original cog railway on Mt. Washington went into operation in 1869. Today it is a National Historic Engineering Landmark.

The road starts out as a welcoming, paved country lane in a peaceful, forested valley, lulling you into a sense of calm anticipation. As it quickly ascends the mountain, you begin to notice the trees thinning out, the grades steepening, and the heart beating a little faster. As the elevation becomes too much for the trees, the views start to become more majestic, with just a few shrubs between you and the ever-deepening valleys. Soon, even the shrubs come to their senses and they disappear, and now only a few rocks separate you from a once-in-a-lifetime ride down the side of the mountain (not recommended). The pavement is the next to go, and the road narrows and turns to gravel, *but the views are breathtaking!*

As you climb to the summit, you also realize you have to share the road with the previous travelers who are on their way down, forcing you to an even closer view of the edge. Advice here--don't look

down. Just when you are questioning your sanity and your heart is thumping in your chest, the road becomes a little gentler and your goal is in sight. You truly believe you've reached the top of the world. A weather station, a snack bar, and gift shop are there to greet you, along with a panoramic view of endless mountains and valleys. It is reported that, on a clear day, you can see five states from the summit.



Bikers stop to rest and enjoy the view on the way to the top of Mt. Washington.

As you may have already guessed, I have an aversion to heights. I have attempted the ride to the top three times on a motorcycle, with two of those rides being successful. The failed attempt, though, is the one worth hearing about. The morning of the planned ascent was the third day of one of our many midlife crisis motorcycle trips, and the weather was unusually clear, warm, and pleasant. As we ate breakfast in a quaint New Hampshire diner, my traveling companions (once thought of as friends) who knew of my fear of heights, began talking about the news they heard that morning: A middle-aged guy on a Suzuki (the make of the motorcycle I was riding at the time) fell off the mountain the day before and died. (Side note: They were all riding Harleys, and they took some liberties, unfit to print here, with the name of my Suzuki.)

Though I knew no one had fallen off the mountain the day before, the suggestion started to work on my psyche, and acrophobia began to grab hold. We finished breakfast and rode through the beautiful New Hampshire countryside to the tollgate of the auto road. Prominently displayed at the entrance was the following warning: "**ATTENTION – The [Mt. Washington Auto Road](#) is a steep, narrow, mountain road without guardrails. If you have a fear of heights, you may not appreciate this driving experience. Guided tours are available.**" The bikers with me, formerly known as my friends, pointed out that I didn't have to go to the top, *especially with what happened to the guy on the Suzuki the day before*. But, of course, my pride wouldn't let me back out.

I fell in at the back of the pack and we started up the mountain. At mile marker one, my shirt was already damp from sweat. Mile two brought on a slight chattering of the teeth and twitching in my knees. By mile three, I noticed the trees turning and running, and my knees were tapping out a steady rhythm on the gas tank. By mile four, the shrubs were leaving for a lower, safer altitude, and my knees were now doing a Ginger Baker drum roll on the gas tank. Soon after, hyperventilating as I struggled to get oxygen to my brain, I realized the pounding of my knees on the gas tank could cause it to explode. The state motto of New Hampshire, "**Live free or die**" suddenly flashed in my head. In that moment of clarity, zeroing in on the "**or die**" part, I stopped my ascent of the mountain and

began the descent back to the peaceful, serene, flat valley floor. It made more sense to "**live**" for another day. Incredibly, I still ride with some of those same characters, (did I mention formerly known as friends?).



One cool dude sighted on Mt. Washington. *Could this be Ray Wygonik?*

I did return to Mt. Washington on a subsequent trip and successfully reached the summit. That trip was made during Laconia Bike Week with several thousand bikers on a day the road was closed to all vehicles except motorcycles. At least the fear of being run off the mountain by a car or van was eliminated.

If driving mountain roads with sheer cliffs is not your forte, there are also daily tours that will transport you to the summit in a van. The van drivers are seasoned at the work they do and usually keep all four wheels on the ground as they negotiate the hairpin turns. If you're really insane, the park also hosts foot, bicycle, and auto races to the top.

Disney has nothing to compare with Mt. Washington, and I will return again. The experience at the top is worth the effort to get there. Happy travels!

Local Cub Scouts Help Plant Trees for IUP's Allegheny Arboretum

By Michael Mann, Facilities Management

Before you get to thinking that we're starting our Grounds crew members a little too young, you should know that the young gentlemen in the photos are volunteers from Cub Scout Pack 29 in Indiana, Pa. With some coordination from the Allegheny Arboretum of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the Scouts recently assisted Tony Neese, maintenance foreman, and the IUP Grounds crew in planting six new trees near the baseball field on the South Campus. The members of the Grounds crew enjoyed the experience and appreciated the extra help. We hope the Scouts who participated went home with a better understanding of how to plant a tree, and a better appreciation for the amount of effort involved.

Since 2000, the Allegheny Arboretum has contributed to the planting of more than 100 trees on the IUP Campus. The Grounds crew looks forward to many more years of collaboration with the arboretum and, hopefully, to many more opportunities like this to work with our local Scouts.



A Geletka Christmas Tale

By Mark Geletka, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management

Ever since I can remember (which isn't too long these days), I've always wanted to experience a Christmas vacation, but, for one reason or another, it just never worked out...until this year. This past August, I cautiously suggested a Christmas vacation to my daughter and my daughter-in-law, and, to my surprise, they were both immediately excited by the idea. My son and my son-in-law were a little skeptical at first, but they, too, later came to look forward to the experience. So, we scoured the Outer Banks for rental home availability and selected a home that would suit six adults and two grandchildren. Finally...a Christmas vacation with all of my immediate family.

My daughter started preparing her three-year-old son, Luke, for the event by telling him that we were going to have Christmas on the beach this year. After several weeks of this declaration, Luke decided that, since we were going to the beach for Christmas, Santa must live in the ocean! We're not sure how he came to that conclusion, but he was certain that Santa would come out of the ocean to find him on Christmas Eve. He was right, of course, because on Christmas morning, with the ocean crashing in the background, Luke awoke to a bountiful, pirate-like stash of Christmas goodies. He actually continued to open gifts all week long. Ahhh...the joys of grandchildren!

The remainder of the week was really uneventful, except for the quality time we had together, and, although we are a fairly close family, we discovered much more about each other as the week progressed. There was always an afternoon board game and usually an after dinner card game wagering potato chips, gummy fish, chocolate, sea shells, and other fine booty. Each couple took its turn at preparing a fine dinner, and I discovered that my wife, Phyllis, had done a terrific job in passing her culinary skills on to our children.

We shared our hopes and aspirations for 2012 with each other, and, before we knew it, the Christmas vacation was just about over. No one wanted to leave. My only regret...we should have done it years ago!

Happy New Year, everyone!



Three-year-old Luke is intrigued by one of the many Christmas presents left by Santa at the beach house on the Outer Banks.



Even at the beach, can it really ever be Christmas without a tree in the house?

Got Ticks? Get Chickens...and More

By Mistie Blazavich, Budget Office

Since we moved to the country six years ago, every spring and fall season has produced its fair share of deer ticks. Each member of my family has been bitten at least once by the terrifying pests. However, thanks to my hairdresser and some neighborly farmers, we have greatly diminished the tick population around our home by getting a small flock of chickens. With eight ladies residing at "Free Bird Farm" (FBF), we have had only two tick problems this past fall. During our "pre-chicken" days, I would see two ticks on my kids after an hour of playing outside.

There are many bonuses to having chickens aside from tick control. They provide a major pest control service, eliminating or reducing the number of ants, grubs, spiders, and anything else they can catch. We have had no ants on our porch since the chickens moved in. Another plus of chicken ownership is their fresh eggs. Some family members will no longer purchase store-bought eggs now that we have been supplying them with fresh eggs. If you have an abundance of eggs, you can also sell them. While many farmers will eventually use their chickens for meat (another advantage to having a flock), we have chosen not to pursue this route, as our coop is run strictly as a retirement home!

As with owning any animal, there is some work and commitment involved. To maintain a small flock, you must provide a safe, comfortable coop, heating as needed in the winter, and proper ventilation year round. Our coop was constructed entirely from leftover materials from previous projects. We anchored a heat lamp to the door for warmth in winter and positioned hooks inside to hold the food and water containers. The coop must also provide protection from predators. There are many horror stories about bears, weasels, raccoons, opossums, and other critters that like chicken dinners as much as we do. Fresh water and food are also a necessity.

Chickens are not picky eaters! My chickens love to roam the yard, and anything they find is free game. An unexpected bonus of having a flock is that chickens will rid your yard of snakes, which makes me very happy! They also act as excellent garbage disposals. They love special treats such as leftover veggies (with a few exceptions), bread, and even doughnuts (as Grandma found out). Finally, if you tidy up the coop a little each day, there is minimal odor and not much ongoing maintenance required.



My daughter, Isabel, and her pal, Smudge, take a Sunday afternoon spin around the yard.



Isabel and my son, Ben, sit for a spell on the chickens' new front porch.

There are drawbacks to free ranging chickens, however. They will eat anything, including zucchinis and cucumbers straight from the garden. While they nibbled my hostas, irises, and spider-worts down to nubs, at least we did not see any ticks. Another drawback to wandering chickens is that you must be careful where you step because they will leave you "presents." Yes, they can be messy, but I look at it as good yard fertilizer.

Finally, on a more personal level, we made the decision to get chickens purely as a functional one. Instead of using chemicals for insect control, which could do more harm than good, we would keep chickens. However, I did not plan on them becoming such fascinating members of our family. As we all got acquainted, we gave names to the chickens, and my daughter made a nameplate for each bird displayed on their coop. My children are benefiting from this experience by learning about nature and responsibility. The chickens' lives also have been enriched by Sunday drives in a Barbie Jeep and by being corralled and guarded daily by a beagle who thinks she is a border collie. While this may sound like a circus to you, it's home to me, and it's a home that's been made bug-free, interesting, and fun by the addition of our clucking companions.

--Management at FBF, with contributions made by Smores, Henny, Penny, Lucy, Goosey, Harriet, Belle, and my daughter's favorite, Smudge

Thank You...

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, donations, and expressions of sympathy at the time of my dad's passing in December.

-Lora Lee Bertig and the Rusnak family

Thank
You

Congratulations...

Jennie Kopczyk, a sophomore Disability Services major and student worker in the Office of the Associate Vice President for Finance, is now a certified, registered therapeutic horseback riding instructor with the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. Congratulations Jennie!!



Management Team Administration and Finance

Dr. Cornelius Wooten
Vice President

Mr. Mark A. Geletka
Associate Vice President for Facilities Management

Ms. Helen Kennedy
Associate Vice President for Human Resources

Ms. Susie Sink
Associate Vice President for Finance

Mr. Sam Phillips
Assistant Vice President for Administration

Mr. Tom Borellis
Special Assistant to the Vice President for Special Projects

Mr. Bob Bowser
Director of Procurement Services and Central Stores

Mr. Samuel Clutter
Director of Public Safety and University Police

Mr. Bob Deemer
Budget Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

Daylight Savings Time Begins	Sunday, March 11
Spring Break	March 12-March 18
St. Patrick's Day	Saturday, March 17
Spring Begins	Tuesday, March 20
Spring 2012 Classes End	Friday, May 4
Final Exams	May 7—May 10
Commencement	Saturday, May 12
Mother's Day	Sunday, May 13
Early Summer Session Begins	Monday, May 14
Memorial Day	Monday, May 28