Now open for business:
The Shopping Plaza

What? You mean we can shop on MaineStreet?

Well, yes. The Office of Strategic Procurement is happy to announce that the Shopping Plaza is now open for official University business. Navigate to the Shopping Plaza through the MaineStreet portal simply by clicking on Shopping Plaza in your MaineStreet Menu bar.

You will find yourself on the University Contracts web page, where you will be asked to enter your MaineStreet (PeopleSoft) ID and password to gain access to more than 100 contracts in 25 or more categories of product and services. These contracts have been obtained through a competitive process, so you can "shop without getting quotes for many purchases." The contracts bring with them the most advantageous freight terms, customer service reps, insurance clauses and other details that protect both you and the University.

We will be continuing to add contracts to this list so if you do not see what you need, check again later or let us know what additional contracts would benefit your department. Also, if you like doing business with certain companies, let us know who they are so they can be invited to compete for these contracts too.

In the future, these contracts will be available in an eCommerce system that will provide a real Internet shopping experience, but for now, visit the Shopping Plaza.

*Please check with your campus business or purchasing office for any campus-specific restrictions that may be in place.
HRMS Upgrade: final update

The upgrade was a happy success. Thank you to campus trainers and to end-users!

The upgrade of HRMS to Oracle/PeopleSoft 8.9 on March 13 was, in the words of Tom Hopkins, Director of Compensation and Benefits in the UMS Human Resources office, “overall, a huge success.”

“We’ve had good feedback and questions and comments from the Peeks. End-users knew what to expect. The campuses all had good plans for training that worked for them. A lot of people’s questions are answered by the Quick Guides.”

Susan Apgar
UMS Payroll Manager

“IT went very well. All the feedback I’ve had has been positive, except for one question about the Time Approval page. I’ve been having a blast!”

Michelle Beaulieu
Personnel/Payroll Technician
University of Maine at Fort Kent

We can attribute this to the hard work of a lot of behind-the-screens people, who ensured that everything would look and work as intended, and to the campuses’ training plans, which ensured that those who needed training got it, and to the end-users who took the time and made the effort to review the online Quick Guides and Peeks prior to go-live day.

This time around things went a bit more smoothly than they did when HRMS originally was introduced to the University of Maine System back in 2003; this upgrade was not a wholesale change, and we were already familiar with the screens and how to navigate in the system.

Of course, there have been some problems, mostly with people’s access to the new system and a few data conversion issues. Nothing major, and for the most part, things are humming along quite nicely.

After the HR upgrade, what comes next?

We now turn our attention back to Campus Solutions (Student Administration) and preparing for a mini go-live in September 2007. At that time we’ll start using PS Student Records for Application Fees (using an interface with GL [General Ledger]) and Transfer Credit. In October, Enrollment Deposits will be accepted into PeopleSoft, including self-service credit card payments and cashiering. You’ll read more about what’s new in Campus Solutions in the next issue of News from MaineStreet.
Touching on TouchNet

The credit card industry has established a Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard that establishes common processes and precautions for handling, processing, storing, and transmitting credit card data. These standards subject the University to annual compliance reviews and potential fines in the event of a security breach.

What is TouchNet? TouchNet is a company that serves higher education institutions by handling all online credit card numbers that may be provided by our constituents. This includes card numbers to be used to pay prospective students’ web application fees, current students’ bills, and gifts made to the university, among other possibilities.

Why will we use TouchNet in the University of Maine System? We do not want to store sensitive data like credit card numbers in university computers. In fact, the University of Maine System is developing an Administrative Practice Letter (APL) that provides strict guidelines about the use of credit card numbers. If there is no personal card information on our servers, we can avoid an entire audit process that we must otherwise undergo, and also limit our susceptibility to fines.

How will TouchNet work? This will all happen behind the scenes (or, if you will, “behind the screens”). Whenever credit card information is provided, as for a payment, the card number will be accepted by TouchNet and securely stored elsewhere, not on UMS servers. Of course, the amount of payment will be credited to the appropriate UMS account.

When will TouchNet be in use? Soon. The final arrangements are now being made, and the first applications to use TouchNet will probably be up and running by the end of this month (May 2007).

The MaineStreet Billboard

Check out the new billboard on MaineStreet. From time to time you’ll find on the billboard some new, interesting, and useful information or tips.

Today’s billboard notice:

As you probably know, you can see all of your paycheck info online. If you have Direct Deposit, you can now make changes to your Direct Deposit accounts—online—in Employee Self-Service. You can also eliminate those pesky paper copies of your pay statement! Visit “The Billboard” at www.maine.edu/system/mainestreet/ for details.
Scene on MaineStreet

It’s hard to tell for sure, but the map on the wall might show the way to MaineStreet. The person in front of the map is Jim White, Manager of Technical Services in Administrative Systems Development and Support.

That means Jim and his staff are responsible for the development, maintenance, and support of everything related to MaineStreet (Oracle/PeopleSoft), as well as some of our legacy computing systems.

Before joining this project, Jim served for several years as Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid at the University of Maine, and also worked as a Systems Analyst for the former CAPS and UNET.

When not in his office, Jim is likely to be found somewhere outdoors doing something physical. He is an avid golfer. “I play in wind, rain, snow, and sun,” he says. Jim has hiked most of Maine’s mountains, a number of mountains in Colorado, and most of the Appalachian Trail in Maine with his elder son, who through-hiked the entire Trail. Jim two sons are grown; he and his wife live in Orono.

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