Optimize Puget Sound is On Its Way

Afters months of planning, deliberation, and preparation, Optimize Puget Sound was officially launched on Tuesday, November 15, 2011.

The two-year project involves numerous departments across the university in the implementation of an integrated software solution from the Oracle Corporation. Ultimately, every member of the campus community will feel the impact of the improved processes and enhanced services resulting from the project.

Well over 100 campus members attended the launch event in the garden level of Howarth Hall. The theme of the event reflected the London Underground, with student musicians performing as buskers and student staff acting as conductors for guests who toured the project offices and computer lab.

President Ron Thomas, Vice President for Finance and Administration Sherry Mondou, and Academic Vice President and Dean of the University Kris Bartanen spoke to those gathered, noting the importance of the project and the long-ranging impact it will have on the university.

“The project, with the Oracle system, helps us to use our resources more efficiently and to provide a better service to our students,” Mondou said.

With Optimize Puget Sound officially launched, the hard work began in earnest. Last fall, Technology Services staff installed and configured hardware needed for the project and worked with implementation partner, MIS, Inc. (see page 3), to set up the software platform.

The Financials team is the first to implement Oracle’s PeopleSoft software for the university. Since PeopleSoft will replace Cascade and Banner, the team spent much of January working to identify Cascade and Banner processes that will transfer easily to PeopleSoft and those that require additional configuration.

Financials is set to go live in July. By that time, work on the Campus Solutions module will be underway, with implementation dates scheduled for various times based on operating cycles during the 2012-13 school year.

“We expect our new system will enable us to efficiently and effectively focus on what is best for our students and the university as a whole,” Mondou stated.

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For Holley Hansen, Technology Lends Itself to Teaching

Visiting Professor of Politics and Government Holley Hansen always considered herself to be fairly tech savvy. As an undergraduate, she even held a work-study job in the computer services department at Truman State University. Still, she had been select about using technology in her teaching, though she had some distinct ideas about how it could be done.

“In my class on European Political Systems, we have a unit talking about identity politics, and each student must become a specialist on a country they select,” explains Hansen. “I used to assign this as a paper to be written, but I had the idea it would be cool for the students to do presentations instead, because when you’re talking about national identity there are a lot of things, like symbols, that have very concrete, very visual elements.”

Hansen’s idea got a boost when she attended training for new faculty presented by the Educational Technology team in Technology Services.

“[EdTech Specialist] Lauren Nicandri was talking about all the projects they had supported, and she mentioned doing a slideshow project for another professor,” Hansen recalls. “I thought, ‘Why don’t I do that for my own class?’ I met with Lauren a lot, and we thought about what would be the easiest thing for the students, so they aren’t learning something completely new, but also easy for me so I wouldn’t have to troubleshoot all the difficulties.”

Hansen and Nicandri settled on presentations developed in Microsoft’s PowerPoint and converted to MP4, a multimedia format. The class had a session in the computer lab where Nicandri demonstrated the technical steps involved in completing the assignment. Hansen found many students assumed they already knew how to use the technology, though their confidence was often misplaced.

“The great thing about working with an EdTech Specialist is they know what they are doing, so they make things easier for you.”

- Holley Hansen

“Some students just zoned out during Lauren’s presentation because they were like, ‘It’s PowerPoint, I know how to use PowerPoint,’” Hansen remembers. “‘Then literally over the next couple weeks, they were like, ‘How do you load sound files on PowerPoint?’”

“Students have a lot of breadth in their experience with technology,” she continues, “but not a lot of depth. They know Facebook, they know Twitter, they have accounts and are followers, but when it comes to what we think of as professional development, such as using the advanced features of PowerPoint, there are some basic things they don’t know because they’ve used these tools in a very limited way.”

Nicandri continued to support Hansen and her students throughout the duration of the assignment.

“Lauren was a lifesaver in this project,” Hansen states. “The great thing about working with an EdTech Specialist is they know what they are doing, so they make things easier for you. If you have them do workshops with the students, then the students will go to them for help and not to you. When my students had a technology meltdown, Lauren dealt with it.”

Despite her enthusiasm for teaching with technology, Hansen offers some caveats.

“I think the important thing if you do tech-related assignments is to keep them manageable for the students, because the more you add, the more difficult it will become for them,” she observes. “The major goals of these assignments has always been to teach students to communicate effectively, to get them to be producers of information, and to catch their interest and get them excited about the subject. But there is a fine balance between enough technology to get them involved and not so much that it overwhelms them.”

For more information, contact Holley Hansen at hehansen@pugetsound.edu or Lauren Nicandri at lnicandri@pugetsound.edu.

Meet Your EdTech Specialists!

As Visiting Professor Holley Hansen found (see related article), support for utilizing technology in teaching is as close as the Tech Center in the lower level of Collins Memorial Library.

“Just going to the Tech Center and seeing what was available was really eye-opening,” Hansen notes. “I didn’t know we had a recording room!”

The Educational Technology team is here to provide services and resources to faculty, students, and support staff in the use of technology and digital media to enhance teaching, learning, and research.

For assistance in teaching with technology, contact the EdTech team at 253.879.3259, edtech@pugetsound.edu, or by visiting the Tech Center.

Shown left to right are Paul Monaghan, Educational Technologist for the Sciences; Kyle Cramer, Educational Technologist for the Humanities; and Lauren Nicandri, Educational Technologist for the Social Sciences.
Want to Learn More about Optimize Puget Sound?

Project Manager Travis Nation would be glad to tell you more! Travis is available to join meetings of your department or organization to answer questions and give a brief presentation on the project, the current timeline, and the type of changes you can expect to see over the coming months. For scheduling, please contact Travis at 253-879-2710 or tnation@pugetsound.edu.

You may also visit these online resources:

- The project website at www.pugetsound.edu/optimize provides a general overview and helpful links.
- The project site on SoundNet at soundnet.pugetsound.edu is listed under Team Sites.
- The project blog at blogs.pugetsound.edu/optimize provides weekly updates and other timely announcements. You can subscribe to the RSS feed from the blog at blogs.pugetsound.edu/optimize/feed/ or through an email client such as Outlook.

(Continued from page 1)

academic year. Offices involved in implementing Campus Solutions include the Office of the Registrar, Academic Advising, Student Financial Services, and others.

The Human Resources team will begin design work in July with go live for that module set for early 2013. Throughout the project the groundwork will be laid to utilize Oracle’s Hyperion and Data Warehouse software, which will greatly enhance the university’s capabilities for reporting, analytics, and forecasting.

One of the most significant changes for all members of the campus community will be the introduction of a new online portal for more personalized access to university information and business processes. Mobile applications are also planned.

Project Manager Travis Nation sees a lot of work ahead but is excited the project is finally rolling along.

“The university spent a lot of time and effort in careful preparation for this project,” he reflects. “It won’t be long before we start seeing significant benefits for the campus community.”

Contact optimize@pugetsound.edu or visit www.pugetsound.edu/optimize for more information.

What Does MIS Mean?

A poster in the Optimize Puget Sound computer lab asks this question, referring to MIS, Inc., the consultant group hired to help implement Oracle’s PeopleSoft software as part of the project.

It’s fun to think MIS might stand for “Many Interesting Sessions” or “Mukilteo International Speedway” as the poster suggests, but the initials are actually an acronym for Moore Integrated Solutions.

Lisa Moore, president of MIS, founded the company in 1996 as a privately owned corporation headquartered in Central Florida. According to Moore, commitment is a core value for her group when working with institutions like Puget Sound.

“The team at MIS is committed to quality, innovation, and utilizing our experience to the fullest for the University of Puget Sound,” Moore states. “We encourage our consultants to become an integral part of your team so we complete the project together.”

Karen Butterfield, out of Winter Haven, FL, serves as the project manager for the MIS team supporting Puget Sound’s implementation and Joe Rossi of Annapolis, MD, is the senior account manager. Others from MIS supporting the Puget Sound project are technical consultants Jose Calderon (from Tampa, FL), Tim Graham (Lakeland, FL), and Tina DuBose (Lakeland, FL); PeopleTools instructor Stephen Phillips (Plant City, FL); Campus Solutions leads Jessica Ewald (Chicago, IL) and Robbie de Leur (Howe, TX); and Michelle Welch (Richmond, TX) as the Hyperion lead.

For more information on MIS, see www.mis-inc.net.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR OPTIMIZE?

FINANCIALS

Go Live: July 2012
- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Procurement
- Budgets
- Accounts Receivable

HUMAN RESOURCES

Go Live: Early 2013
- Recruiting
- Payroll
- Benefits
- Administration

HUMAN RESOURCES

Go Live: Early 2013
- Recruiting
- Payroll
- Benefits
- Administration

CAMPUS SOLUTIONS

Go Live: Multiple dates from late 2012 through early 2013
- Academic Advising
- Financial Aid
- Student Financials
- Academic Structure
- Student Records

ANALYTICS

Go Live: Work on setting up analytics will continue through 2013
- Data Warehouse
- Hyperion Forecasting
**PrintGreen Coming in Fall 2012**

We already use recycled paper, but the university will take another step this year to make campus printers as sustainable as possible. PrintGreen will start in Fall 2012 as a new way to manage student printing on campus.

Through PrintGreen, students will be allotted 750 print credits each semester. A “print” is each page side that runs through the printer, so printing a single-sided page equals one print and a double-sided page is two prints. After 750 prints, a student will pay 10 cents per print. Records of past usage indicate most students make less than 750 prints a semester.

An on-screen meter will appear each time a student prints to show the remaining credit balance, how many prints have been used, and the environmental impact of his or her printing to date. Students will have the ability to pay for prints online as needed.

As part of this initiative, Print and Copy Services will partner with the Bookstore to sell coursepacks that can be printed “on demand” starting this fall. Faculty will receive information soon about how to provide their coursepack for this service. The university is also obtaining a copyright clearance license to support this process.

PrintGreen is overseen by the Library Media and Information Systems (LMIS) subcommittee of the Faculty Senate, endorsed by the university’s Sustainability Advisory Committee, and managed by Technology Services.

More information on PrintGreen will be coming through campus emails, posters, and in the spring issue of TechNews. For questions or comments, please contact the Technology Service Desk at 253.879.8585 or servicedesk@pugetsound.edu.

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**Everything Old is New Again**

As part of larger efforts such as PrintGreen to encourage the sustainable use of campus resources, Collins Memorial Library has teamed up with Print and Copy Services on the Pocket Pad Project.

“Print and Copy Services has a long standing tradition of reusing materials,” notes Library Director Jane Carlin. “Last fall we partnered with them on this project to use paper from print jobs that were never picked up by students! We wanted to find a meaningful way to use this paper in order to be effective stewards of our environment.”

Carlin asks campus members to bring any unwanted single-sided copies of 8½ x 11 paper to the Library’s Learning Commons. Paper collected there from individuals and print stations around the Library will be used to produce pocket pads twice a year.

The pocket pads are distributed throughout the Library and at special programs such as the Possibilities and Potential workshop held in January for sophomores.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee provided initial funding for the project, but donations are welcome at the Library office to help offset the production costs of 20 cents per pad.

For more information, see www.pugetsound.edu/pocketpad.

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**Meet Your Client Support Team!**

After several months of working short-handed, the Client Support team is fully staffed once again!

The team was completed with the recent hires of Alexis Greenwood and Jessica Hartenstein as desktop support specialists.

Greenwood is a 2010 Puget Sound graduate with experience in customer relations and marketing. As a student at the university, she worked for Technology Services as part of the ResNet and Telephony teams.

Hartenstine holds degrees from Pierce College and Tacoma Community College. She has extensive educational and work experience in information technology with a strong focus on customer service and technical support.

“We are very pleased to have Alexis and Jessica join our staff,” says Joel Arakaki, who was named client support manager last fall. “The whole team is excited about being able to respond to the technical support needs of the campus community in an even more timely and effective manner than before.”

Contact the Client Support team at 253.879.8585, servicedesk@pugetsound.edu, through the Online Service Desk at www.pugetsound.edu/osd, or by visiting the Tech Center in Collins Memorial Library.