The magic of Oz descended upon Butrovich last Friday as Mike Hostina moved from his old office in Labor Relations to his new office in General Counsel. Upon entering the second floor hallway, one could not help but notice the yellow brick road. A buzz permeated the air. When Hostina arrived for work, he entered his office to find it had been transformed into a prison cell. (Only the evening before, the entire HR department had put the finishing touches on a plan that had been hatched and developed over the previous two weeks.)

Mike Hostina began statewide in 1997 as Labor Coordinator. In 1998 he took over as Director of Labor Relations. The current move to General Counsel is “an opportunity to expand his scope of responsibility”. This is a good example of moving within the University System to benefit the individuals professional goals and to stimulate employee growth and advancement.

The things Hostina will miss most are “the people I worked with, their good humor, creativity, and their insanity”. Although Mike is only a few feet down the hall from HR, his leadership, kindness, and jovial nature will be missed in the HR department. The HR staff would like to extend their thanks to all who assisted with Mike’s send-off. The names will be kept confidential to protect the guilty.

We’re Off To See the Wizard

Mike Hostina
General Counsel

This is where the road began. Instructed to put on an apron and carry a basket full of Toto, Mike (aka Dorothy) was escorted down the 360 ft. yellow brick road. The end of the road was the sign of a new beginning, as office 206F had been transformed into the Emerald City. A field of giant paper flowers, a rainbow of balloons, and breakfast goodies awaited Mike in his new office. Throwing off Dorothy’s garb, Mike donned a gold-trimmed robe and stunning pair of ruby loafers to assume the personae of the Wizard of Oz. An elaborate farewell of food, fun and friends welcomed Hostina into his new position as Associate General Counsel.

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or call 474-7272

St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th

Before (June 2001) and after: The move that started “On The Move”. Penny Ewalt, coordinator for Finance, is happy that the old Public Affairs space has finally been restored for our new assistant general counsel, Mike Hostina. It couldn’t have happened to a nicer guy!
Diabetes Treatment is Number One Reason Employees Seek Medical Care

Over the last several months the Statewide Benefits Department has been working with two other large Alaska employers to discuss strategies to ensure continuation of excellent health care benefits. Working with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, the group has learned that treatment for diabetes is the number one reason our employees and their dependents over age 40 seek medical care. Additionally, although diabetes is not curable, its effects can be minimized through proper treatment and education.

To better understand possible educational opportunities and to help identify and support those with the disease, Statewide Benefits is working with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska and the two other employers to conduct a survey to help determine exactly what our employees know about this disease. The survey will be conducted on a randomly selected group of people. In March each participant will receive a letter asking them to participate in a voluntary phone survey. Members will be given the opportunity to call a toll-free number at their convenience. The survey takes about 6 minutes. All members’ answers are kept confidential with the results used to develop educational tools and resources to help our employee and their dependents with diabetes management. We believe this can be a valuable tool in helping us provide excellent benefits and aid in promoting better health for members with diabetes. If you have additional questions please call Mike Humphrey, Director of Benefits (907) 474-7905.

Transitions...

Dr. Russell O’Hare (above) is the new Policy Analyst in Statewide Budget and Institutional Research. He accepted the position March 3. Most recently, Russ worked for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and prior to that he was a comptroller in the military. Responsibilities of the Policy Analyst include the innovative integration of academic, financial, human resource, facilities, and external information in order to advise and assist the President and Executive Management in developing detailed strategic planning alternatives for the UA system.

For Sale or Trade

Send your items for sale or trade by e-mail to: bob.miller@alaska.edu

From Alesia Willey at 457-1690: Suzuki GZ250 Street Bike $2,000 obo.

From Betty Studteaker at 479-4925: LARGE Knaak tool box, on wheels, front opening doors, with drawers. $250.00

From Marji Schwartz at 488-4107: Want to Borrow: Metal Detector to find survey pins.

From John Dickenson at 457-2824: 1997 GMC SLE 4x4 Pickup -Z71 Excellent inside and out, 34,000 miles, two-tone paint, CD, bed liner, bug screen, V8, auto, air, cruise, split bench seats, two sets of rims. $14,500 OBO.

From Kristen Clare, 337-3175: Pentax 35mm manual camera, includes regular and zoom lenses, flash and bag. $225.


From Thom & Torie Foote, 479-0908: 98’ Dodge Grand Caravan LE, AWD, Loaded, remote start, studded tires and a summer set. Great condition. Bumper to bumper warranty. $16,000 obo.

From Robin Porter, 474-0777 (leave message): 1986 Jeep Laredo; $3,600 or best offer; MUST SEE. 146,000 miles; Approx. 15,000 mi. on rebuilt components: engine 2.8 liter 6cyl; transmission; carburetor; axles; etc. long list. Have all maintenance receipts. Fully loaded except power windows & locks.

Spring Break for Statewide employees is Friday, March 22nd.

For Sale or Trade

On the Move is Online

Go to: www.alaska.edu/opacity/onthemove. Deadline for the next issue is Monday, March 25th by the end of the day.