



November 2007

The Odyssey

Summer 2002 - Planning began

2002 - 03 - Business process analysis began in each division

July 2003 - Finance module training began

April 2005 - Banner Finance "live," first UNC campus to do so

November 2006 - Human Resources launched

March 2007 - Admissions and Financial Aid launched

March 2007 - Student module launched

April 2007 - Students registered for fall classes for the first time using Banner.

Spring 2008 - Advancement to launch

Summer 2008 - Conversion era closes; Banner of the future begins

Banner Celebration November 1

On November 1, the University celebrated its successful Banner conversion.

Bob Orr, UNCP's new Chief Information Officer, said the event was "a way of saying thank you for your hard work." He called the conversion a "very successful event" and an "amazing accomplishment."

Chancellor Allen C. Meadors recalled in 2002 when the University learned its old data system was going away and the five-year conversion odyssey that ensued.

"Our finance division was a pioneer in this process," Chancellor Meadors said. "This has not been

easy, but you hung in and supported each other.

"We're not there yet, but we're almost there," he said. "You will be pleased with the results."

Provost Charles Harrington praised the Banner conversion staff as the leader among UNC institutions after UNCP launched the very first Banner module (for finance).

"Banner will make a tremendous difference in the service we provide to our students," Dr. Harrington said. "We will be able to do our jobs more efficiently and effectively."

Dr. Harrington sang a song he

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There is a lot to celebrate

by Bob Orr

Chief Information Officer



We seem to be in such a rush that many times we don't stop to enjoy our accomplishments. I hope the campus

Banner Celebration gave you a chance to celebrate your many successes with the implementation of Banner.

Yes, it has been a bumpy road. There have been a few mud-puddles along the way, but by and large things are going well. Banner Student is operational, the finance folks are crunching numbers, HR is hiring people, students are receiving financial aid, the systems are working and people are becoming more familiar with the various Banner

'Please accept my congratulations on a job well done.'

modules.

A year from now we will be surprised at the progress we make. The marriage of Banner and our business processes will continue to mature as we find our new work rhythm and adjust, adapt and add new options and processes. Now, we must turn our attention to Banner Advancement in an effort to have that final piece operational in the spring.

While working on Banner

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Banner works for our students



Registrar Sara Brackin was on the front line of the Banner conversion almost from its start.

Bottom line she said in an interview during the Banner Celebration: "Banner is working for our students. The 'personal touch' in education is better than ever."

Brackin made the remarks after successful online registration for spring and fall 2007 semesters. In fact, both the old SIS system and Banner ran simultaneously during part of this time period.

Another major accomplishment this fall was that the first transcript was produced using Banner.

"Our goal is to provide seamless services from Freshman Orientation to graduation and beyond," the Registrar said. "For students, Banner keeps mistakes to a minimum during registration and throughout their college years.

"They can see more such as required pre-requisites, and so can

their advisors," Brackin said. "Advising has taken a leap forward.

"The University Registrar ticked off the advantages of Banner including financial aid reporting and faculty access to email accounts of students in their classes.

"Student Banner is one unified database that is putting the entire University community on the same page for our students," she said. "We are actually fielding fewer questions from students and faculty too."



Registrar Sara Brackin, right, with Provost Dr. Charles Harrington at the Banner Celebration.

Banner will help Advancement work smarter



When the Office for Advancement launches Banner this spring, it will mark the end of the conversion era for the University, and

Vice Chancellor Sandy Waterkotte is looking forward to that day and beyond.

"Four years ago when I came on board, I began attending Banner meetings to work on data standards," she said. "When it's all said and done, we will work smarter."

The biggest task at hand, Waterkotte said, is converting data from the old ADS alumni tracking

'The days of report writing for quarterly reports are over.'

system. Training began in earnest last spring for Advancement Banner led by Teresa Oxendine. Betty Johnson, Kim Hunt and Rhonda Chavis are working hard to bring Banner Advancement up just a year after training began.

Adding to the degree of difficulty, the old ADS system must run simultaneously with the conversion

process to continue tracking UNCP's 14,000 alumni.

"With Banner, we will know a lot more about our alumni," Waterkotte said. "Our alumni will be able to update their personal profiles with essential information online."

Past contacts with alumni will

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Howard brings a record of Banner success

Bonnie Howard was sitting in Oxendine Science Building last week working on one of 30 computers in the Banner lab. In this lab, several hundred University staff have been trained.

As UNCP's Banner Student Project Leader, Howard is a contract employee whose success in Banner implementation at UNC Wilmington put her in a position to help elsewhere.

"I came to assist with getting Banner Student online," she said. "It was a vast project. What people don't realize is that there were millions of records that

had to be migrated and verified from the legacy system."

Banner Student involved departments across campus, including Admissions, Financial Aid, Student

Accounts, Housing, Orientation and even Student Health Service's immunization records. Also, without the support and leadership of Tom Jackson and his UCIS staff the project could not have



Banner project leader Bonnie Howard preparing for the next step.

succeeded.

With two registrations under their belts, the bottom

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CIO Bob Orr speaks with Banner Steering Committee member Dr. Beverly King, assistant vice chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness.

Advancement, we will also reconstitute the Banner Steering Committee to focus on next steps. Now that much of Banner is operational, we will reduce the committee size so we can maximize our efforts and reduce the number of

efficiencies with Banner. I look forward to these efforts and in working with the committee members and with you.

Being new to the campus has given me a chance to view your collective efforts with a fresh perspective. That view has given me a glimpse into your fine work. I know you worked untold hours implementing the new Banner systems while keeping the University running.

Please accept my congratulations for a job well done! You did it, and you did it well. Take a deep breath and now let's continue to refine Banner and its related systems to make our institution even better.

If you have ideas or suggestions, please don't hesitate to share them with me at Robert.Orr@uncp.edu or call me at extension 6883.

Banner Steering Committee

Dr. Beverly King (Institutional Effectiveness), Bob Orr (UCIS), Bruce Blackmon (Financial Aid), Delores Lowry (UCIS), Denise Carroll (Business Services), George Guthrie (Controller), Julie Layne (Continuing Ed.), Kathleen Hilton (Graduate Studies), Lela Clark (Admissions), Pam Barkett (HR), Preston Swiney (Student Affairs), Roger Killian (Finance), Sara Brackin (Registrar), Teresa Oxendine (Advancement) and Tom Jackson (UCIS).

person-hours related to the implementation process.

The Steering Committee will address the next steps including revisiting policies, practices and standards. We will also address data reporting and other issues while determining how we can improve our effectiveness and

Celebration..... Continued from Page 1

composed about Banner to an appreciative audience. For a copy of the lyrics, please see page 4.

The Advancement Division will be converted in spring 2008. Students have successfully registered for two semesters using Banner.

In a telling moment during the Celebration trivia contest, MC Alan Prevatte posed questions about the total number of forms and tables the University uses in Banner.



RETIRING -- From left: Delores Lowry, Marilyn Blackburn, Maureen Windmeyer and Carol Paul. Paul and Blackburn retired the day before with 70 years of service combined.

"Too many," someone answered to laughter. The correct answer is 3,207 forms and 3,323 tables. Financial Aid won with the most forms with 1,389.

Sunguard Banner is a fully integrated, Oracle-based, Internet-native technology solution for the higher education community with more than 600 institutional

customers. It is a suite of software applications for student information, human resources, financial aid, faculty, finance, alumni, advancement and more.

Advancement..... Continued from Page 2

be tracked and future contacts will be planned.

"The more alumni UNCP generates and the larger our office becomes, the greater our need for tracking information," Waterkotte said.

Alumni may be the biggest pile of data, but it is just the beginning of what Banner will do for University fundraisers.

"Ultimately, we will be on the same system as the registrar, financial aid and controller, and information will flow seamlessly between us," she said. "For the first

time, we'll all be on the same page."

Banner will also give the office the ability to gather and analyze data about critical fundraising activities and create reports.

"When one of our fundraisers is on the road working with major gift prospects, he or she can go online and log in their contact activities," Waterkotte said. "The days of report-writing in order to compile quarterly reports are over."

Howard..... Continued from Page 3

line is that Banner Student is working well.

"(Registrar) Sara Brackin said it was the best registration ever," Howard said. "I don't believe there is one goal we set that was not accomplished."

Transcript production was one of the last pieces to come on line this fall and faculty grading for the Fall semester will launch at the end of November, she said.

In Howard, UNCP gets an experienced higher education professional. She worked more than 20 years at UNCW beginning in the Registrar's office and ending as its Banner Student project manager.

"When I got here, there was a good team in place that was working hard," Howard said.

An implementation team had been formed and was Banner Bits & Bytes

having success with the project. The team included: Lela Clark Admissions, Dr. Kathleen Hilton (Graduate Studies), Bruce Blackmon and Mildred Weber (Financial Aid), Carol Hunt (Housing), Frances Hunt and Paulette Dial (Student Accounts), Ginger Brooks (Institutional Effectiveness), Sara Brackin (Registrar) and Delores Lowry and Marilyn Blackburn (UCIS).

"I've enjoyed it here. It's been good for me."

Banner is the premier database software for putting college and university administrations on the same page. Because it uses the latest Oracle technology, universities become more efficient and serve their students better.

Banner Pie

(to the tune of "American Pie" by Don McLean)

A long, long time ago,
I can still remember
how the data used to make me smile.

And I knew if I had my chance
that I could make those numbers dance
and keep the bosses happy for a while.

But mainframes made for six month logjams
with VSAM files and Cobol programs,
terminals dumb as cardboard,
Bill Gates flunked from Harvard.

Imagine how I cried with glee,
when I got VisiCalc on an Apple IIe
something clicked inside of me,
the day, the PC arrived.

So why, why are our attrition rates high
crunch your numbers through the
spreadsheet and email your reply.
Dr. Meadors wants some
silver bullets to fly, singin'
this may be the day I retire,
this may be the day I retire.

Did you see the new mandate,
and do you know how we can relate
with what the GA says is so.

Now will their survey tools help us detect,
what our freshmen think, and what they expect and
can you tell us where non-returners go.

Well, we know that you're just out of school,
and the politics can be quite cruel.
Just send the data our way,
and we want it without delay.

I was a naïve guy, making lots of noise
with a Ph.D. and some low tech toys,
but I knew things would soon be destroyed,
the day that Banner arrived.

They started singing...
why, why, do our faculty cry,
that their paychecks too small
And their workload too high.

Banner Bits & Bytes

Please find us peers
to which we aspire, singin'
this may be the day I retire,
this may be the day I retire.

After ten years, and no longer green,
I left Indiana for another scene,
cause that's just how one gets ahead.

When the Provost said what do these data mean,
that I've just received from an irate Dean,
and it doesn't match what your report last said.

Well the legacy system can't be interfaced
so the Dean built himself a shadow database.
We need some common rules,
so we don't all look like fools.

And while our Brave Techs built an E-I-S,
to give us answers that EI confessed
and pledged to clean this data mess
the day the Warehouse arrived.

They were singin'...
why, why, won't our students comply,
sent the survey through the mail
with a business reply.
Our response rates for NSSE
just took a dive, singin'
this may be the day I retire,
this may be the day I retire.

And in the halls accreditors screamed,
where's your evidence and improvement schemes
we hyperlinked all we could show,
in an electronic portfolio.
And the theories that we now advance,
don't account for very much variance
just check your colleagues' experience,
the day the Listserv arrives.

They started singing...
why, why, do our support staff cry,
that their paychecks are too small
And their taxes too high.
Please find us peers
to which we aspire, singin'
this may be the day I retire,
this may be the day I retire.

Lyrics by Charley Harrington and Victor Borden