

Banner Finance & HR Newsletter

December 2004, Issue No. 14
Final Issue

Upcoming Banner Release in 2005

SCT Banner 7.0

Sungard SCT is expected to release Banner 7.0 on January 15, 2005. Initial planning indicates that this release will be tested at Mason during the Spring semester and implemented in production in late July, 2005.

This release is primarily a technical upgrade, but it will change the appearance of INB forms. It is the beginning of transforming SCT Banner into an open API (application programming interface) message-aware architecture. With APIs, Banner forms, self-service applications, batch processes, and ITU customized uploads and interfaces will all use the same database routines for common business functions such as adding an employee. This will result in processing integrity and quicker information exchange between Banner and non-Banner systems.

SCT is beginning to develop a unified 'look and feel' between INB and self-service applications. Staff from George Mason's Fiscal Services and HR departments participated in QA testing of Banner 7.0 at Malvern, PA earlier this year. Initial review of the system indicates the interface has more of a browser look and feel. The system testers preferred the new interface after using it for a short period of time.

To aid in navigation, tabs (similar to Excel) will be added to the top of forms, replacing the current Options menu. More INB rows have been added to several forms to reduce horizontal scrolling and a pop-up option with right mouse click has been added. The window is larger (1024x768) with Verdana font, the toolbar has improved icons, and a calendar icon is added to data entry date fields.

Additional features are being added to improve data integrity and security. New value based security rules will be available allowing the implementation team to construct additional

controls. To help prevent multiple person records in the system, a matching process will be available everywhere a new ID is created, to help identify potential duplicates.

Banner 7.0 will be integrated directly with the Luminis portal. Planning for the portal implementation here at George Mason has begun and it will be implemented in phases.

The Banner 7.0 upgrade will enable the University to upgrade from Oracle 9i database software to the most current version, Oracle 10g, in late 2005.

Fiscal Services Web Site Redesigned:

<http://fiscal.gmu.edu>

Fiscal Services has redesigned its web site to provide easier access to information. Some new and useful features are the following:

- Updated staff lists on each office page
- Frequently asked questions by each office
- Training page with course descriptions and how to register
- Reference page with quick guides
- eVA Resources page

Update Your Address for W-2 Forms!

Please remember to login to Patriot Web and update the system with your current address. This will ensure that your W-2 tax form will be mailed to your current address.

To update your address, simply:

- Go to <https://patriotweb.gmu.edu>
- Log in to Patriot Web
- Select Personal Information
- Select Update Address(es) Phone(s)
- Enter your current information

Who's Who in the ITU...

Database Application Services (DAS)

Carrie Gillotte, Director.

DBA Team:

Barbara Yablonski, Manager. This team is responsible for: Oracle databases and Banner releases and patches; web tailor

Banner Application Team:

Kathy Adcock, Manager. This team is responsible for: INB processes, work flow, self service applications

Data Mart Team:

Tom Leventhal, Manager. This team is responsible for: Finance, HR, Admissions, Student data marts; FRS/HRS/BR historical data stores; Discoverer Administrator

System Integration Team:

Charlie Hofmann, Manager. This team is responsible for: interfaces between Banner and other University business systems, state systems, non-state vendors; complex University reports

Portal and Web Technologies Team:

Kirsten DeLashmutt, Manager. This team is responsible for: Luminis Portal, content management, web applications

Banner Infrastructure Team:

This team is responsible for database management.

Barbara Yablonski, Lead DBA.

Sandy Winter, Windows Engineer, INB, Touchnet

Shawn Jennette, Windows Engineer, Imaging

Pat Morgan, Sun Engineer

Steve Bernard, Network Engineer

**ITU Support
Phone Number:
703-993-8870**

Upcoming Training Classes

Banner Self Service Classes

12-07-04: Banner/INB Navigation (FX)

12-14-04: Banner Finance Self Service Training (FX)

12-14-04: Banner Faculty Finance Self Service Training (FX)

12-16-04: Electronic Approvals (FX)

12-16-04: Banner/INB Navigation (FX)

01-13-04: Electronic Approvals (PW)

01-20-04: Banner Finance Self Service Training (FX)

01-20-04: Banner Faculty Finance Self Service Training (FX)

For details and up-to-date information on training times, locations, and registration, please go to:

<http://www.gmu.edu/PatriotProject/train.html>