Above is the current timeline for Banner V6 beta testing and implementation.

Two more USG institutions have volunteered (a total of seven) to beta test since testing began on March 19. Beta testing will conclude on April 23, 2004.

If you are interested in testing Banner 6.1 or any other Banner release, contact Karen Nunn (karen.nunn@usg.edu) for more information.

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Georgia Summit 2004

Go to http://www.usg.edu/oit/summit/2004/ for details on this year’s conference to be held at the Savannah Hyatt in Savannah on September 8-10, 2004.

The Program Planning Committee is calling for presentations in the following topic areas:
- Banner, Financials, HRMS, General, and USOA.

Visit the Web site and select the “Call for Presentations” link to submit a proposal.

Be an early bird and register now to save money. Early registration ends on June 30, 2004.
It’s Live: The New Banner Production Support Web site at www.usg.edu/banner/

As announced on the GaBEST listserv on March 15, 2004, the new Banner Production Support Web site is at http://www.usg.edu/banner/. This site requires you to log in using a secure user name and password. Contact your campus Banner Project Leader to obtain your user name and password.

The site redesign replaces the current Student and Financial Aid section of the EAS site that is used for publication of documents for Banner and the Georgia Enhancements. The Banner Production Support site provides both technical information and functional documentation about baseline Banner and the Georgia Enhancements directly to technical personnel and functional users at University System of Georgia Banner institutions. Links to technical documents, release information, test plans, user instructions, and functional training materials are included. The site is updated for every release, and documents from the current site have been archived and are available from the new location.

- Take a few minutes to explore the new website and familiarize yourself with the features.
- Review your personal bookmarks to the old website and update them with the new location in this site.
- If you see information that might help a colleague on your campus, share the link and log-in information.
**HOPE Invoicing**

To address concerns raised by the State Auditor’s Office that the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) exercise adequate controls over the disbursement of HOPE Scholarship and Grant funds, GSFC has developed a HOPE Invoicing System they intend to implement state-wide in the Fall Term of 2004.

As part of GaBEST, OIIT has worked with GSFC and pilot institutions to provide the functionality needed to submit invoices to receive HOPE funding. The GaBEST HOPE Invoicing Process produces an invoice to be sent to the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC).

You are strongly encouraged to review the *Georgia Enhanced Banner Student and Financial Aid System User Documentation, Using HOPE Invoicing, Chapter 18*. The documentation provides setup instructions that are required for processing HOPE Invoices. The documentation can be found in the following location at http://www.usg.edu/banner.

Below is a draft of the final BETA test schedule for your review. The date listed reflects the begin date for beta testing. Changes to this schedule may be made should your institution deem it necessary to change beta test periods. Requests to change beta periods should be made to Amanda Marshall (amanda.marshall@usg.edu) no later than 12:00 P.M. March 26, 2004.

Program improvements will be ongoing throughout this entire period. A final production release of HOPE Invoicing is scheduled for June 2004.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2004</td>
<td>Savannah State University</td>
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<td>Valdosta State University</td>
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<td>April 16, 2004</td>
<td>Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Albany State University</td>
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<td>Georgia College &amp; State University</td>
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<td>April 30, 2004</td>
<td>Atlanta Metropolitan College</td>
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<td>Columbus State University</td>
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<td>East Georgia College</td>
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<td>Georgia Institute of Technology</td>
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<td>May 14, 2004</td>
<td>Armstrong Atlantic State University</td>
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<td>Augusta State University</td>
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<td>Clayton College &amp; State University</td>
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<td>May 28, 2004</td>
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<td>Gordon College</td>
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<td>Middle Georgia College</td>
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</table>
Registration Fee Assessment Training

OIIT will present a 6.x Fee Assessment Training session on Monday, April 26, 2004 at 10:00. Join us at the Education Technology Center at Macon State College (Bldg. C, Room 112) for a demonstration of the new fee assessment functionality. The session will include information on the following topics:

- Migration to BANNER 6.0 for Fee Assessment
- SFARGFE Enhancements
- Fee Assessment Processing
- Batch Fee Assessment Processing
- New Audit History Form
- Refunding

This training is free and designed for staff members of the Registrar’s Office and Business Office responsible for registration, student bills, and refunds. Due to limited space, only two people from each institution may attend.

SCT’s Education Center is also offering a live online training course on the Registration Fee Assessment in Banner 5.6 and 6.0. Scheduled for May 25, 2004 at 1:00 – 5:00 P.M., the course will provide an overview of the current enhancements to Banner 5.6 and 6.x Fee Assessment. Go to http://www.sct.com/Education/Services/SCT_Banner/D_TrainingSvcs.html for more information. Select the link to SCT’s Education Center to access the current schedule of internet courses or contact the SCT Education Center at edcenter@sct.com. The price per person for this course is $175.00.

Banner 6.x Navigation Training via GSAMS

OIIT will be conducting instructor-led GSAMS training for Banner 6.0 Navigation to address new functionality. Currently, four sessions are planned for May 2004.

Monitor the GABEST listserve for more information as it becomes available.

SCT Computer-Based Training (CBT)

OIIT has placed several Banner V6 CBTs at http://swdist.banner.usg.edu/banner5. Access to this Web site is secure and requires a user name and password. Please contact OIIT Customer Services if you need assistance with permission to access this site.

Computer-based training allows repeatable training anytime and anywhere. It features simulations and a navigational flowchart offering a quick method of accessing the CBT contents. Simulations allow learners to observe and perform related procedures, with or without guidance, in Banner. These modes are referred to as the show me, teach me and test me modes. Unfamiliar terms are easily accessible from a glossary.

As you use these materials, please remember that they deal strictly with SCT baseline Banner and do not incorporate modifications for USG enhancements nor USG-specific business practices.
Highlighted Functionality for April

As mentioned in the September 2003 edition of this newsletter, **Open Learning Registration (OLR)** is new for V6. It contains new and changed objects for Catalog, Schedule, Registration, and Academic History in the Student module. This enhancement provides learners with the ability to register for a class based on start/end dates rather than a term or part of term. This date-based approach is optional and works with Banner Student’s registration processing for enrollment and administrative purposes.

Although the use of the OLR functionality is optional, many of the new and changed fields, forms, processes, and reports may impact your current business practices for traditional term or part of term registration. To familiarize yourself with OLR, refer to the **Student Open Learning Registration Handbook (Student Release 6.0)** and **Student 6.0 Release Guide**. Both documents are available on SCT ActionWeb.

- Go to [www.sct.com](http://www.sct.com) and log in to the ActionWeb. If you don’t already have a login and password, you can create one. The Extended Search option directs you to a user-friendly interface.
- You will have access to Known Issues, FAQs, release guides, and user documentation.
- Release guides and user documentation are accessible in the Documentation Download area. Release guides detail the specific changes (new/changed forms, processes, and tables) delivered in an incremental or version upgrade of Banner. User guides contain the information needed by the administrative staff that handles the daily activities of the offices, including explanations of form and process functionality.

Members of the V6 Banner Upgrade Project Team

This group represents the many areas involved in this project, including Developers, Banner Functional Analysts, and DBAs.

*First row seated (L to R):* Kervin Powers, Amanda Marshall, Trent Tucker.
*Second row seated (L to R):* John Broz, Margaret Dillard, Nancy Petree, Karen Nunn.
*Standing (L to R):* Brad Burch, Scarlet Peachey, Tania Pittman, Cindy Taylor, Hope Dunagan.
Multi-Institutional Functionality Project

USG students are frequently taking courses at multiple institutions during a single semester. For many students, this has created problems in admission, registration, financial aid and transcript acquisition. Despite the best efforts of many of our institutions, this has remained a significant problem. In an effort to enhance student learning, augment academic productivity, and increase graduation rates, the USG established the Multi-Institutional Functionality Project in August 2003. The MIF project will remove some of the barriers to student learning by implementing a streamlined, seamless system which allows students to openly register for courses at multiple institutions via an online mechanism.

Since August 2003, the USG has hosted 9 information sessions involving 27 institutions and over 100 individuals and developed the functional specifications for the MIF interface. Within the next year, the interface will be developed and tested. USG policies and business practices will be reviewed and updated to accommodate the new functionality. Additional information is located at http://www.usg.edu/usgweb/sitcap/ in GaBEST > GaBEST Multi-Institutional Functionality.

Joint Development Program

In order to provide some of the enhancements requested during the Post Implementation Assessment (PIA), OIIT initiated the Banner Joint Development Program. Several institutions have volunteered to generalize and enhance locally developed processes to comply with OIIT programming standards and these items will be released as Georgia enhancements. Currently, two institutions are making concerted efforts to generalize, test, and document a Self-Service Financial Award Letter by Term Web page and a Self-Service Fund Eligibility Look Up/GPA Calculator.

The process for these joint development projects is:

- The institution will submit a completed Functional/Technical Specification based on the requirements from the System Office.
- The specifications are verified by various groups, including representatives from the institutions.
- The institution will develop the project on the joint development environment. This involves migrating the institutionally designed software to the joint development database where OIIT and the institutional partners can test and remediate as necessary.
- The enhancement will be put through the standard OIIT system and beta testing procedures prior to release as a production supported Georgia enhancement.

A complete process flow, documentation and project requirements are located at http://www.usg.edu/usgweb/sitcap/ in GaBEST > GaBEST Banner > Presentations and Reports. Completed functional/technical specifications will be uploaded as they become available.

Banner Project Leaders

As part of the GABEST Banner Project, institutions currently have two Banner Project Leaders – one functional and one technical. These individuals are responsible for coordinating Banner activities on the campus and serve as the primary contacts to receive and disseminate communications from OIIT. The updated BPL lists are located at http://www.usg.edu/gabest/functional.phtml and http://www.usg.edu/gabest/techleaders.phtml. If you are interested in or have questions about Banner usage on your campus, contact your designated BPL.
**Technical Roadmap**

- OIIT strongly recommends any institution on Oracle OAS 4.0.8.2 upgrade to Oracle 9iAS (1.0.2.2) and Oracle RDBMS (9.2.0.4) by April 30, 2004.
  - Institutions running Banner on a Solaris platform should upgrade OS to 2.8 before migrating to Oracle 9i (prerequisite for Banner 6x).

- Oracle 9.2.0.4 is required for Banner version 6.1.


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**V6 Technical Update**

For more information or if you have questions regarding the V6 Upgrade Project, contact: helpdesk@usg.edu, http://www.usg.edu/customer_services/, or 1-888-875-3697.

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
1865 West Broad Street, Athens, GA 30606-3539
Phone: Toll Free 1-888-875-3697 (within Georgia) or 706-227-7171