

# CM News

## An Update on The University of Mississippi's Campus Management Project

### What is This???

This flyer is the first in a series of six you will receive during the current academic year containing information on the development and implementation of the new Campus Management system at The University of Mississippi.

Campus Management, commonly referred to as CM, is one of two major components of the Students FIRST (Forging Innovative & Responsive Service through Technology) project which the University kicked off in October 2001. The other component, a new financial aid system running on ProSam software from the Sigma Corporation, went into live operation with the start of the Fall 2002 semester.

Utilizing software from the German-based SAP Corporation, CM is a totally integrated system that will allow automated management of student records from admission to graduation. Everything from

a student's contact information to course credits to billing statements will be entered into one system. The result will be improved service to UM students by many departments on campus, including admissions, advising, and the bursar's and registrar's offices.

Perhaps the greatest change experienced by students and instructors, though, will be totally new web interfaces for a variety of activities, some of which have been available on the existing legacy systems and some not. They include applying to the University, reviewing academic programs and course offerings, registering for classes, paying tuition, and uploading and checking grades.

The transition to CM will impact the work of some 750 faculty and staff members who have accounts on the current student information system.

In these flyers we plan to keep you

### INITIAL UNDERSTANDING

- CM** Campus Management, SAP's student information management system.
- SAP** Systems Application and Products, a worldwide vendor of information management systems based in Germany.
- ERP** Enterprise Resource Planning system, of which CM is a component.
- IT** Information Technology, the department acting as technical facilitators for CM.
- PBJ** Paul B. Johnson Commons, where the CM workplace is located.

updated on CM, telling you who's doing what and how this might affect you. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions for topics we should cover, please contact Kathy Gates at 915-7280 or [kfg@olemiss.edu](mailto:kfg@olemiss.edu).



Jason Ferguson and Veena Mantena, both Systems Analysts III for IT, look over materials from their recent presentation during a poster session at the EduCause 2002 Conference, held October 1-4 in Atlanta, GA. Entitled "XML/XSLT as an E-Business Enabler," the presentation was one of two made at the conference by UM staff members. The other featured Buster Hale and Kathy Gates speaking about SAP's Campus Management system and its implementation at Ole Miss. Their PowerPoint presentation, which offers an informative and understandable overview of CM, can be viewed at [www.olemiss.edu/projects/first/cm/educause2002.ppt](http://www.olemiss.edu/projects/first/cm/educause2002.ppt).

### UM, CM, and SAP

When the new Campus Management (CM) system goes "live" next year, it will be the culmination of a process which began in 1998 when the University administration accepted the recommendation of the reengineering Project DISCOVER to migrate the legacy mainframe systems to an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

A University-wide committee eventually selected the German company, SAP AG, as the ERP vendor. CM is the last major component of the ERP to be installed.

Ole Miss is one of only four universities worldwide, and the only North American institution, to act as a pilot site for the CM software system developed by SAP. According to CM Project Manager Kathy Gates, this offers both benefits and challenges to the University.

"One of the strengths of the system is the fact that we can customize it to meet our exact needs," she explains. "But that also means we have to reach agreement on how the system should operate and then make sure we have configured it to enforce these institutional rules and policies."

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# Laying the Foundation

The Campus Management core consists of three areas...Academic Structure, Student Administration, and Student Accounting. Almost 40 faculty and staff members from across campus make up the three teams assigned to define, configure, and implement the modules for each of these areas. The teams overlap somewhat, both in members and materials, with some aspects of student information affecting more than one area.

The Academic Structure team is currently working to enter into the system all information related to the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including courses, majors, and requirements.

Team leader Dr. Jim Vaughan, Associate Dean of Engineering, says the information involved can be very complex.

"We found one degree program, a BA in Education with a major in secondary education, which can have ten different sets of requirements depending on the emphasis."

According to IT Systems Analyst Manager Rick Thurlow, getting such information right is critical to the suc-

cess of the entire system.

"We need to get the academic structure right so that subsequent events, such as creating course offerings, registering students, grading, and graduation, all work right," he explains. "It lays the foundation for everything else in the system that relates to courses."

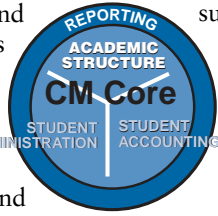
For Benita Whitehorn, Assistant Director of Publications, keeping an editorial eye on the process seems important, too. Along the way, however, she's discovered an added benefit to being on the team.

"It's nice to be able to work with other people on campus instead of just working within your own department," she notes. "It gives you a sense of the bigger picture."

Vaughan says the team's work will eventually result in some groundbreaking changes for the University. He gives the example of automatic prerequisite checking, in which the system will

automatically check to see if students have met the prerequisites for a course before allowing them to register for it. In order for this to happen, though, all the prerequisite relationships have to be entered absolutely correctly into the system.

"This is a major change in how the University is going to interact with students, and it's going to affect the faculty tremendously," he states, adding, "But we're going to make it as smooth as possible for everyone."



Members of the Academic Structure team confer (L to R: Benita Whitehorn, Jim Vaughan, Denise Knighton, and Rick Thurlow).

## UM, CM, and SAP continued

Gates adds, "Since we're a pilot site, though, SAP is working closely with us to make that happen, since they want the software to be as successful as possible. We get to influence the development of their system, and that is very exciting."

Buster Hale, Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology,

says SAP's product sets new standards for student information systems.

"CM offers Ole Miss the very latest in student information software," he notes. "We will be among the elite universities of the world using it."

The CM workspace is in Paul B. Johnson Commons where the Purchasing

Office used to be located. Approximately 120 people on campus are currently involved in the project. Most of the hands-on work is being done by IT staff members, but they are supported by faculty and staff representatives from various departments acting as committee and team members or in other resource capacities.

## The University of Mississippi



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