

FSC ACCESS

UNIFIED DIGITAL CAMPUS PROJECT NEWS



ALIGNING THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY WITH ELECTRONIC SELF SERVICES

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A NEW BEGINNING

BY PATRICK LAUGHRAN



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CITO
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The start of a new year often signals the beginning of something more than just another increment of time. The so-named “Unified Digital Campus” (UDC) initiative is one example. January 2007 marks a new beginning for Framingham State College as we enter the implementation phase of the most ambitious information systems project ever undertaken at this institution.

The strategic intent of the UDC initiative is to establish better ways to manage data, deliver an expanded array of personalized information in more convenient ways, and offer new online self-service applications. The students who attend Framingham State today lack many of the conveniences found at other colleges and universities with respect to registering for classes, determining financial aid status, obtaining transcript information, and paying fees online using self-service applications. This will soon be a thing of the past as we convert to the new system and make these new services available.

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At the same time, needed application performance and reliability improvements will be made to the underlying technology used to render personalized information through the “myFSC” portal. Other important but less visible benefits will also come from this initiative in terms of how we capture, process, store, and manage data. For example, more complete and reliable data will become available for making day-to-day management and planning decisions. The UDC initiative offers an excellent opportunity to advance the College’s mission by establishing an information system with greater capabilities for managing operations, making more informed decisions, and better serving our students, faculty, and staff.

All of us will play a part in making the successful transition from the current system to the new one. Even though the Department of Information Technology Services plays a critical role in this project, the most important contributions will often come from people within other areas of the College. During the coming year, several of the people playing prominent roles will share their perspective in the pages of this newsletter.

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ENTER TO WIN! - TURN TO PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS.

WHAT IS UDC?

By David Katz



David Katz
SunGard Higher Education
Account Manager

The term Unified Digital Campus (UDC), coined by **SunGard Higher Education**, is defined as an environment in which people, process, and technology interact seamlessly to strengthen institutional performance through improved constituent services, increased accountability, and better educational experiences.

SunGard's customized administrative (**Banner**) and integration and portal solutions (**Luminis**) provide Framingham State College with tools to meet Framingham's challenges and unique needs and objectives. A key tenet of the Unified Digital Campus is to provide as many myFSC online services as possible, in order to attract, serve, and retain highly valued students, faculty, and alumni. The SunGard solutions will also help to establish a stronger and more unified Web presence that promotes the unique identity of the College, and engages prospects.

Ultimately, the expectation is that the Unified Digital Campus will help enrich and extend the personalized attention that students, alumni, faculty, and others expect from Framingham State College. By initiating the UDC project, Framingham State College joins more than 1,600 institutions worldwide who have implemented SunGard solutions. □

WHAT IS STRATA'S ROLE?

By David Megregian



David Megregian
Strata Project Manager

Strata Information Group (SIG) has a long-standing history of providing IT-related support services to colleges and universities across the US. During the UDC implementation Framingham State College selected Strata to leverage their experience in these initial areas:

Project Management – The SIG project manager will provide assistance to the UDC Steering Committee, Cross-Functional Leadership Team, Project Sponsor, Project Manager and the Implementation teams. They will also assist with coordinating various project documents and assisting with task and milestone monitoring.

Implementation Consulting – The SIG implementation consulting team will provide planning and implementation consulting support in order to advise and assist with the many complex implementation tasks required.

Conversion Consulting – The SIG conversion consulting team will provide support to assist with data conversion planning and execution activities.

Database Administration Support – The SIG database administrator will provide installation and training support to the FSC database administrator and act as the primary production DBA for the first year of the UDC project. □

A NEW BEGINNING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We are also partnered with SunGard Higher Education (a world-class provider of software and services for higher education) and Strata Information Group (a leading provider of technical and professional services for higher education) for the implementation phase. Framingham State College takes lead responsibility for a successful implementation, but these two organizations will provide essential experience and in-depth product knowledge. Their contributions toward this initiative are provided in this newsletter and in their own words on page 2.

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INSIDE THE NEXT ISSUE



UDC Training Update

- Consultants
- Programs
- Timelines
- Facilities

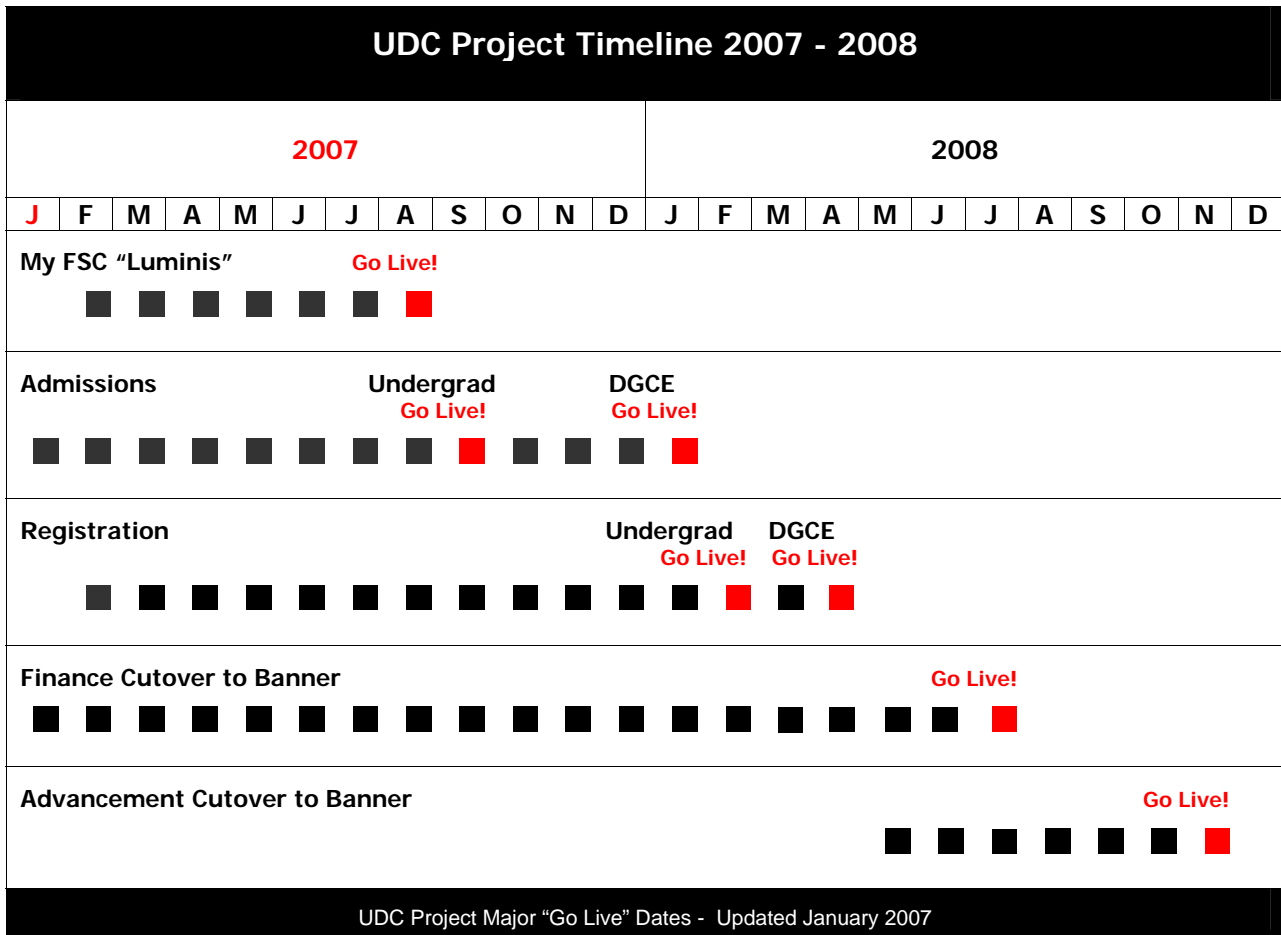
We invite you to become informed about the Banner project and to feel free to ask questions at any time. Please email us at udc@frc.mass.edu or visit the [project web site](#) to view past issues of FSC ACCESS and information about the UDC initiative. □

ENTER TO WIN!

Find the answers to our questions in the Word Puzzle listed below. E-mail your entry to udc@frc.mass.edu and win a **\$25.00 Gift Certificate to the Bookstore (donated by efollet)**. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received. The drawing will be held on February 16th. The winner will be notified by Email and announced in the next **FSC ACCESS** newsletter.

X	U	S	A	V	T	W	O	C
P	N	U	L	O	D	U	L	L
R	I	N	G	R	E	S	U	E
O	F	G	H	C	I	T	M	A
J	I	A	M	O	N	R	I	D
E	E	R	W	H	M	A	N	E
C	D	D	P	E	O	T	I	R
T	K	Z	Q	N	J	A	S	S
W	O	R	C	E	S	T	E	R

1. The _____ Digital Campus Initiative.
2. Company that licenses the Banner Software.
3. Name of the consulting firm working with FSC.
4. System Banner is replacing.
5. Team _____ are charged with system configuration.
6. The production/live servers will be located in this city.
7. MyFSC portal will be replaced by _____.
8. Last name of FSC's Oracle Database Administrator.
9. How many environments does FSC have?
10. _____ Managers are responsible for the overall implementation of the UDC Initiative.



A NEW BEGINNING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Unlike some of my past personal New Year resolutions (e.g. losing weight), this one will continue through 2008 and into 2009. The effort clearly requires a sustained commitment over an extended period of time. But time will pass quickly (as it always does) and some benefits will become apparent later this year. A high-level timeline is depicted above showing the various "go-live" dates for the major portions of the new system.

I am looking forward to working with you on the UDC initiative and sharing in the successes. This is an important institutional priority and the results will be of tremendous lasting value for the entire College community. Rarely do we get a chance to make such a difference on this sort of scale. Let's make the most of the opportunity and have fun along the way! ☐