

## UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS AMERICAS



## UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS AMERICAS ADOPTS WORLD-CLASS SOFTWARE FOR ITS “CLASSROOM PROJECT”



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*- Hernán Campos, Dean of the School of Engineering,  
Universidad de Las Americas*

### Highlights

#### Business Context

The university had outgrown its internally-developed management system. It was time to acquire an internationally renowned ERP for higher education that would offer specific applications designed to meet its management needs.

#### Business Challenges

- Select and implement world-class management software which will allow it to administer both information and processes more effectively
- Web-enable resources so students and the general academic community can access the information they need and interact with the university
- Choose a technology platform for the ERP system which would run problem free in critical situations, offering total accessibility 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

#### Solution

- SCT Student Banner (Academic and Management Control)
- Luminis Portal
- Sun Fire V490 and V890 Servers
- Sun StorEdge 6130

The Chilean Universidad de Las Américas is one of the Laureate International Universities, the most important network of private universities in the world, headquartered in Baltimore, U.S.A. Laureate International Universities currently comprises 17 universities (both campus-based and online) in Europe, the Americas and Asia. More than 150,000 students attend these institutions.

The name “Laureate” symbolizes the aspirations and achievements of the students and professors that form part of this unique international network of universities. The network’s goal is to extend the reach of higher education with programs geared to help students achieve professional success. Thus do countries develop and the world benefits as a whole.

With more than 25,000 students and six branches across the country, the Universidad de Las Américas offers students a significant selection of majors and different schedule options. The institution has thereby decided to implement world-class management software which will allow it to administer both information and processes more effectively.

Up to this point, the university had been working with its own software, a system called SAES (Higher Education Management System) which was developed in 1992 when the university had only one campus. Over

time, the system was adapted to the university’s rapid growth, reaching 40% per year. The university finally decided that it had outgrown SAES and it was time to acquire an internationally renowned ERP for higher education that would offer specific applications designed to meet its management needs.

For this reason, having thoroughly evaluated the world’s principal suppliers, the university decided to implement the “Classroom Project” with ERP Banner software from SunGard SCT, a prestigious American company and market leader in IT for higher education. The same ERP Banner in use at the Universidad de Las Américas is installed in more than 1,400 universities across more than 30 countries.

Of the six modules offered by the Banner solution, the Universidad de Las Américas has decided to acquire the Student Banner (Academic and Management Control) and the Luminis Portal. At a later date, the Finance, Human Resources and Alumni modules will also be incorporated.

Integrated with this solution is a portal tool called “SCT Luminis”, which enables different users, such as students and the general academic community, to access the information they need and interact with the university.



**Hernán Campos, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, UDLA; Claudio González, CLASSROOM Project Manager, UDLA; Esteban Alfaro, SUN Sales Manager; Néstor González, Provost, UDLA**

In conjunction with this purchase, was the decision upon which technology the ERP would run. There was one basic requirement to be fulfilled: the technology had to be able to run problem free in critical situations, offering total accessibility 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This need can be explained in part by the activity during particularly critical months, such as March, when the information flow increases exponentially. Additionally, since students maintain different schedules, they must be able to study in any free time they may have, even at night.

A decision was finally reached to work with the technology offered by Sun Microsystems. This technology is recommended by SunGard SCT, largely because these technologies are used jointly at most of the universities where this solution has been applied and the results have been more than satisfactory.

"Given the quantity of students, professors, majors and schedules we offer, we need a technology that we can depend on and trust completely. Sun Microsystems offers one of the most well-known technologies when it comes to working with critical mission processes," says Hernán Campos, Dean of the School of Engineering at the Universidad de Las Américas.

"Sun Microsystems, is proud to participate in this project, because it signifies yet again our growing involvement in the world of academia. Moreover because, in this particular instance, we have been selected alongside another of the most important companies in this area," explains Esteban Alfaro, General Territory Manager for Sun Microsystems.

To date, the solution is still in the process of implementation, and will be officially

inaugurated at the beginning of the 2006 academic year. However some of the advantages for the university can already be seen. One of the most important features is the centralization of information in a single place, avoiding data duplication. In addition, new communication channels are being opened for both university personnel as well as for students and the general academic community.

### Technology

All SunGard SCT software is based on Sun Microsystems technology with an Oracle database. This comprises a large Sun Fire™ V890 server with 8 processors where the entire university database is installed. In addition, there are 5 V490 servers with Ultra SPARC® IV processors: two of these servers are dedicated Application Servers; one is used for the portal; one supports the calendar function, and the final server is used for e-mail.

In order to maintain all of these servers, the university has acquired a Sun StorEdge™ model 6130 Midrange Storage System with a total capacity of 1.5 Tbytes. Two people at the university will be fully trained on Sun equipment maintenance.