IT AWARDS
Nomination Form

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name of Project, Application, Initiative, etc.	New Student Online Orientation and Course Registration System
School	Berea College
Individual Nominating	Joe Bagnoli
Award for Nomination (please circle one)	Best New Campus Application Best Student Online Service Most Successful IT Infrastructure Project Most Innovative Use of Technology for Instructional Purposes

NOMINEE DESCRIPTION	Berea's new course registration system involved the creation of a web-based, online orientation system that provides entering students with extensive information about the early enrollment process at Berea. It collects and communicates vital information from and to new students. The online orientation experience includes several educational components, transactional web-based processes, and language and mathematics placement testing. At the conclusion of the experience, new students are provided with an online tutorial designed to help them choose courses of interest that will also satisfy academic requirements at Berea. After course preferences are submitted, a sophisticated program written at the College which captures comprehensive curricular information from faculty leaders of academic departments is run to place all students in available, appropriate courses, ensuring that entering students have required courses in their schedules, an introductory course in their primary area of academic interests and elective courses of interest that also serve to meet program requirements.
JUSTIFICATION FOR AWARD	The cross-divisional nature of this solution required collaboration with faculty, staff, administration and generous support from our colleagues in IT. It has revolutionized orientation, our first year registration process and makes use of technology our students are eager and prepared to engage.
BENEFITS	Countless hours are spent every year by colleges to perform first year student registration and hundreds of hours of student time (and often travel to campuses) is required to achieve registration in an appropriate range of courses for the important first term on campus. Often, these administrative matters dominate the time advisors spend with students. Through Berea's new online system, we have been able to shift away from an administrative advising model to a developmental advising model, permitting the time for strong, early relationships to develop between faculty advisors and new students. We anticipate far fewer errors in the registration process this year as we are no longer depending upon advisors to remember every nuance of the academic program requirements at Berea. The new system will also ensure accurate course placements. In addition, it will provide us with useful information for the Dean's Office to make important course management decisions with an eye toward student demand for classes. Furthermore, the system will permit us to gradually register each student for the first course in their primary area of academic interest before moving on to elective courses. In prior years, students have attended summer registration workshops and registered on a first-come, first-served basis. The first half of students always got exactly the classes they wanted and the second half had to accept what was left. Now, everyone will be enrolled in a class of great interest and electives that reflect both their interests and our requirements. We anticipate an improved academic experience for students and faculty alike.