Robert Kastenschmidt, KPMG, added, communication skills are often more important than any certification. He continued, “you can go into an interview and say ‘I’m the most technical student out there!’ but if you can’t communicate effectively, it means nothing.”

The meeting started off with food sponsored graciously by Deloitte and ended on a high note: the firms encouraged applications for internships and full-time positions, as all the firms are still hiring. Interested students should contact the recruiters and also Marquette Career Services Center for more information. Students were reminded about attending the Java and Jobs networking event on Tuesday, February 10th.

~ Evan Montague
ITSO Good

Days to One Million: The Smartphone Wars

So I was surfing one of my favorite tech blogs the other day and found this interesting bit of information regarding the iPhone “1 million devices sold” graphic (shown below). The image demonstrates the speed (in terms of days) at which each competing handset achieved the magic milestone. This shows the iPhone 3G with an outstanding 3 days to sell 1,000,000 phones. What it leaves out is the footprint at launch which of course, affects the total population able to purchase the device. For example, the iPhone 3G launched in 21 countries simultaneously whereas the G1 launched in the US only. It’s also worth noting that the precision reflects that of the announcements made. For example, VZW announced that the BlackBerry Storm hit 1M “through January” which could be interpreted as January 31st or January 27th, the day of the announcement – and that’s just US sales. Still, the table is a valuable tool for the fanboy and shows off the continued success in anything, besides a computer, that Apple slaps its logo on. Yes, I went there and however you want to argue it, it’s true. Apple does not and probably will never have the same success with its computer business as it has with its mobile entertainment sectors; however, it has found a great niche and no one can dispute its 70% hold on the mp3 market and great success in the smartphone business.

~ Josh Connor

Welcome Back from ITSO President Erica Gelvan

I am very grateful to go to a school that fosters and encourages students’ participation. Marquette allows for student organizations such as ours to have an input in the way things are run as well as host events to better help the community. As the president, I was lucky enough to attend a roundtable with Dean Salchenberger. At this roundtable, the presidents of the business student organizations not only heard about the future plans for the College of Business but were also allowed to ask questions and add our input/suggestions regarding how to make this institution the most beneficial for its students. As for our community events, ITSO has already hosted our first two SPAM-OUT events in January in which ITSO members put in community service hours to clean up Marquette students’ computers using virus protection software. This new event is a great way to help our fellow students who are less “techy”. Look out for more similar events in the future!

As the new semester has begun, I am very proud of our organization for the continued effort being put forth. We have already held our first events and have many more to come. I hope that everyone takes full advantage of these great opportunities that we are lucky to have. Even in this economy, we have companies willing and ready to sponsor events in hopes of building a strong relationship with Marquette IT students and faculty. Over these next few months I hope to continue the success of our events with high attendance and quality discussions. I am also looking for new ways ITSO can be involved in the Marquette and Milwaukee community, so readers, if you have any ideas, please send them my way. In a few months we will be accepting applications for new e-board members and adding your input is a great way to begin. As a growing organization, we have only tapped into our potential, and I am very excited to see the path of this organization over the next few years. Information Technology is changing every day and I am very excited to be a part of it.

I wish everyone the best of luck this semester and please don’t hesitate to contact me at erica.gelvan@mu.edu for anything!

~ Erica Gelvan

“Marquette allows for student organizations such as ours to have an input in the way things are run as well as host events to better help the community.”
As events like WorkForce 2009 and Java and Jobs approach, many of us are preparing to meet recruiters and potential employers. Between the large number of skilled college students and graduates looking for employment opportunities and the state of the current economy, it’s important to make a positive, lasting impression that will distinguish you from the rest. You only have a few minutes (and sometimes only a few seconds) to impress the employer, but believe me, that’s more than enough time!

In the WorkForce 2009 Employer Guidebook, available in the AMU to all students, I found this excellent summary of the important basic information that you need to tell a potential employer: “Tell the recruiter your name, class year, and whether you’re interested in a full-time, co-op, or internship position followed by your career interest, your major(s), and finally, why you came to the company’s table.”

The guidebook goes on to talk about flattering the company’s accomplishments, and this is what I find to be the most beneficial recommendation. If you are serious about your job search, do your best to acquire detailed employer information before you make contact with the company. This is not a challenging task: Employer information is usually available for the basic price of some simple digging. A small investment of even just a few minutes researching the company can return ten-fold through a request for an interview, and ultimately (hopefully) leading to an employment position with the company. Any time you come in contact with a representative of a company, your objective should be to take yourself one step further on the path towards a job offer.

An additional outcome of researching could be that you realize this opportunity or company is not something that you would like to pursue. You are able to save yourself the time and energy of pursuing the company because you took the preliminary steps to educate yourself regarding the company’s services and goals.

There are so many easily accessible resources available to you to complete your research. You should start searching the internet for the company’s website, press releases, corporate annual report, news articles, etc. Career Services provides countless resources to help you secure a job. They could give you names of alums who work there, allowing you to get in direct contact and directly contacting the company.

Take advantage of the resources available to you. This is the start of your career, so why not make the most of it?

~ Emily McGough
Catching Up With Viraj Siriwardena from Sri Lanka

Greetings from across the Globe! I’m Viraj Siriwardena from Sri Lanka, and I was the IT club President for the year 2005-2006. With the support and advice of our then IT club advisor, Dr Kate Kaiser and the IT faculty, we were able to begin many successful initiatives during that time and had a great membership. The active members have taken the club to greater heights. I was very impressed with the new newsletter and the fully revamped website. The club is a great resource to the IT majors, and I hope the students are making use of it for networking, building knowledge, finding internships, jobs, etc. It also provides great opportunities to acquire IT and leadership skills while keeping up-to-date with the latest technologies and developing trends in the IT industry.

I’m now back in my home country, Sri Lanka, working as a Business Analyst for an IT consulting and outsourcing company called Virtusa (Headquartered in Westborough, MA). Most of our clients are in the USA and the UK, with offices in the USA, the UK, India and Sri Lanka. Most of our USA clients are in the Banking and Insurance sector, while we provide a lot of services to the Telecommunications sector, primarily in the UK. Currently I’m working on a project for Metavante (based in Milwaukee, WI).

This is my 3rd project so far with the company. The first project was with British Telecom in UK, and both subsequent projects after that were for Metavante. Virtusa is Metavante’s primary outsourcing partner for IT services. I also worked on a research project for the company’s Middle East initiative since that region is also seen as having future potential for IT services, and meeting some potential local clients arranged by the local office of Microsoft. So far I have been working from offshore, and my job has not required travel. A lot of Virtusa employees have to travel often to client sites, while some are based at client sites for the duration of the project.

A little about my background: I’m originally from Sri Lanka, and after high school, started work at Colombo offices of Standard Chartered Bank and later Pan Asia Bank. At Pan Asia bank, I was involved with implementing a banking system called T24/Globus from Temenos. Later, I came to work for the Temenos office in the USA, and was working at its New York office which was located in the 84th floor of the 1st tower of the World Trade Center. After September 11, 2001, I relocated to California and completed an associate degree from Chaffey College and later transferred to Marquette University to complete my bachelor degree.

Adjusting back to the work environment had its challenges for me since there was a gap in full-time employment due to taking time off to complete my studies in the US. In my day to day work, I find what I learned at Marquette very useful. What I have found from my personal experience is that you only realize its full value when you find yourself working with the same stuff you learned in the classroom. The Marquette IT major curriculum equips students with the exact skills that employers are looking for right now in the market, especially for Business Analyst and Project Management roles.

I’m so happy to see that the IT club continues to remain active through the hard work of the committee members and under a highly motivational and persevering IT faculty advisor, Dr. Terence Ow. I want to thank Dr. Kate Kaiser, Dr. Monica Adya, and Mr. Steve Rau, who are always willing to go out of their way to help the students at Marquette achieve their career goals.

Please keep up the good work, and continue to keep in touch. My personal email is viraj@siriwardena.com.
"Quality in Everything We Do"
Quality is a word you often hear around Ernst & Young offices. Not only is it one of the main pillars the firm is built upon, it is the reason why Ernst & Young has become one of the leading firms in the industry. Quality is something that our 135,000 employees in 140 countries throughout the world embody everyday. Ernst & Young people demonstrate superiority and excellence in the services we provide to our clients, which is evident in the People First culture that continues to keep Ernst & Young at the top. Recently, Ernst & Young was ranked in Forbes magazine as one of the “Top 100 Companies to Work For,” ranking the highest among the Big Four professional service firms. BusinessWeek also ranked Ernst & Young as the #1 “Company to Launch a Career” in 2008!

So How Do You Fit In?
Ernst & Young has opportunities for internship positions as well as full-time positions in many different service lines. However, the best fit for IT-focused students is within the Advisory Services practice. Students specifically focused on IT would fit best in the Technology & Security Risk Services (TSRS) group. Some common services provided to our clients include:
- Helping to protect IT assets against external viruses, cyber terrorism and other malicious attacks and internal security threats
- Advising on software application controls integrity
- Improving IT processes
- Addressing regulatory compliance on IT applications

The Internship
An internship with Ernst & Young’s TSRS group will offer a wealth of experience for you. The internship program starts with orientation and training, providing a chance to learn more about the firm and network with fellow interns and other Ernst & Young colleagues. During orientation and training you will begin to get a feel for the things you’ll be doing during your internship. After training, you will be assigned to an engagement where you will be able to see first-hand what occurs on a daily basis. However, your experience isn’t limited to watching others – you will have the opportunity to complete work that is expected of any full-time hired staff. The network of support you have at Ernst & Young helps you succeed at the tasks assigned to you. The firm builds an internship program that sets you up for success, and as an intern, you will gain real-life experience that will further enhance your skills and knowledge in the IT audit industry.

Of course, your experience won’t be all work – often times you’ll have the opportunity for a trip to a baseball game or two, as well as social hours to meet and network with other colleagues in the office. Summer interns also have the privilege to experience the International Intern Leadership Conference (IILC) held annually in Orlando, Florida. This is a four day event where you’ll have the opportunity to learn more about the firm and develop organizational, interpersonal, leadership and networking skills. Interns will have the opportunity to meet with Ernst & Young partners and employees from around the world. This is an experience you don’t want to miss!

The Full-Time Position
Much like the internship, training and education is a highly valued commodity at Ernst & Young. The support network that you build during your first two years with the firm is an invaluable asset. Colleagues are supportive and are willing to help you succeed, as they understand the excitement and anxiety the first year of work can bring. As with interns, full-time staff work directly with the client and perform invaluable tasks that further enhance the skills and knowledge gained during college, training and other employment experiences. Because of our “People First” culture, and the “Quality in Everything We Do” mentality, employees build the foundation to achieve great success both inside and outside the firm.

What Else is There?
Much, much more! The Milwaukee office has different committees, organizations and activities that further enhance your work/life balance.

(continued on p. 6)
Company Spotlight: Ernst & Young (cont.)

Some activities include: the Professional Women’s Network, Social Committee, Junior Achievement, bEYond, summer softball and kickball leagues, and recruiting events.

Volunteering and giving back to the community are also highly valued. Annually, the Milwaukee office supports Longfellow Elementary School and in the past year was able to donate approximately 260 backpacks and $5,000, which went towards the purchase of school supplies and other classroom materials for Longfellow families. Ernst & Young also holds an annual campaign for United Way in which the Milwaukee office alone was able to raise over $125,000 for the Milwaukee area. This is just one more way that Ernst & Young embodies our philosophy of “Quality in Everything We Do.”

Volunteering is a big part of E&Y life, particularly with Longfellow Elementary School.

Talk To Us
You now have a basic understanding of Ernst & Young, but if you need more information or have questions, please contact Joe Plouff (joe.plouff@ey.com) or Sarah Vida (sarah.vida1@ey.com). We are more than happy to expand on any of the topics above or any other questions you may have. The more questions you ask, the better you are prepared to know exactly what you want for your future!

Joe Plouff is a Marquette alumnus in the second year of TSRS while Sarah Vida is the senior associate for TSRS.

Google Gears

Webmail services such as Gmail, Yahoo! Mail and Microsoft Hotmail (now called Microsoft Live!) have become extremely popular in the last few years due to the ease of creating a new account, and the convenience of being able to access e-mail from any number of the growing amount of web-enabled devices. The one downside to using web-based mail services is that they are just that- web-based. No internet connection means no mail- until now.

Google’s webmail application, Gmail, has been pulling ahead of the pack in the last year or so, due largely in part to the frequently added new features, the latest of which is called Google Gears.

Gears is a browser plug-in that installs in Microsoft Internet Explorer v7+ and Mozilla Firefox that actually allows you to access your Gmail e-mail while not connected to the internet. This new feature combines the portability of webmail with the convenience of being able to access your mail from your computer at any time, even if you cannot get online.

In addition to working in Gmail, it also allows you to access your other Google Applications such as Google Docs and Google RSS Reader while offline. To get started, you will need to install Google Gears by browsing to http://gears.google.com, and following the on-screen installation instructions. Then, log in to either Gmail, Google Docs or Google Reader, and click the “Settings” link in the upper-right-hand corner of the screen. From there, click the “Labs” tab, and “Offline” should be the first option. Enable this and save your settings. That’s it! Google Gears will now begin to sync your mail onto your computer, and will even give you the option to create a desktop icon to access your mail, just like any other application that you would install on your computer. To access the offline sync settings, just click the new “Offline” link in the upper-right-hand corner of the Gmail screen.

~ Lukas Sparks
Company Spotlight:

A Little Background, Please
In today’s electronic society, it is not uncommon to learn of a data breach involving millions of customer records – records that contain personally identifiable information like your Social Security Number, credit and debit card numbers, and other account numbers.

To date, the largest data breach on record involved TJX Companies, the owner of retail brands that include TJ Maxx, Marshalls, and HomeGoods. Announced by TJX in January 2007, 94 million credit and debit card numbers belonging to an unspecified number of customers in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Ireland, and the United Kingdom were stolen from one of its payment systems over a period of nearly two years by an unknown number of hackers.

As a result of the breach, the retail chain brokered settlements of $24 million in restitution to Mastercard-issuing lenders and $41 million to Visa to settle costs and losses incurred by the card issuers. Visa executives estimated their actual loss between $65 and $83 million. In addition to this monetary impact on the company, the Federal Trade Commission mandated that TJX submit to independent third-party security audits every other year for the next 20 years.

While the TJX compromise easily eclipses the next largest breach (40 million records in 2005 at CardSystems Solutions), news just broke in January 2009 of a potentially larger breach at Heartland Payment Systems. The company announced that cybercriminals compromised its computer network, gaining access to customer information associated with the 100 million card transactions it handles each month.

Protect Your Data
According to the Identity Theft Resource Center, data breaches increased dramatically in 2008. Their recently released breach report details that 656 data-loss incidents occurred in 2008, an increase of 47 percent over 2007’s total of 446.

To avoid a breach, as well as comply with various laws, regulations, and mandates, it is obvious that a company needs to protect one of its most important business assets – its data.

Several factors, such as the variety of computing platforms within an organization and the number of employees and business partners requiring access to data, make it difficult to successfully implement an enterprise-wide data security solution.

Solutions from PKWARE®
PKWARE, Inc., headquartered in Milwaukee, provides software solutions that allow companies to simplify the protection of their important files.

Our PKZIP software is the “gold standard” technology for compressing files. It is the industry-leading compression utility that zips and unzips files, greatly reducing file transmission times and required storage space. It also improves processing efficiencies and reduces costs for our enterprise and government customers.

Our SecureZIP software not only compresses files, but it protects them using passphrase- or digital certificate-based encryption. Using a data-centric security approach, where the data itself is protected no matter where it travels, SecureZIP ensures that information is protected whether the data is in transit (files being exchanged between endpoints) or at rest (archived files on a variety of media). SecureZIP is currently in use by over 25,000 companies to ensure the security of their important data.

Visit PKWARE at Java and Jobs
Be sure to stop by and see us at the Java and Jobs 2009 event. PKWARE is offering an internship that might be right for you!
Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, February 10th
Java and Jobs
AMU Ballrooms 8:00am-10:00

Interview Schedule
(Please check Career Manager for details on resume submission)
Tuesday, February 10th
Grossman & Associates
Software Developer full-time

Friday, February 6th
Northwestern Mutual
Programmer Analyst full-time

Friday, February 20th
Accenture
Consulting Analyst internship

Wednesday, February 11th
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Advisory internship, Systems and Process Assurance Associate full-time

Tuesday, March 3rd
Kohl’s Department Store
Business Analyst internship, Programmer internship

Thinking of joining ITSO?
Do it today! Fill out the online application at muitso.org and bring it to the next ITSO meeting with a check to ITSO for $10.

Suggestions
Do you have any ideas for articles you would like to see in ITSO Good?
Contact
Allison.cooney@mu.edu

Executive Board (2008-2009)
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Recruiting Zone
This space is available for job or internship postings. Please contact
Allison.cooney@mu.edu for information.

We are on the Web:
muitso.org