



March 2004

Canadian Information Processing Society Ottawa Section Newsletter

In This Issue ...

Message from the President

Program Update - March 2004

Events Calendar

WIT2004

Student Perspective

Informatics 2004

CIPS Scholarships 2003

PDW2004

New ISPs

CIPS Recruit an IT Campaign

CIPS Ottawa Patrons

Federal Government CIO Update

Thursday, April 15, 2004

Michelle d'Auray
Chief Information Officer,
Government of Canada

CIPS Ottawa
11 Rosemount Ave., Suite 400
Ottawa, ON K1Y 4R8
CIPS Hotline: (613) 728-7944
Email: cips@mco.ca
Web Site: www.cips.ca/ottawa

Message from the President

Prior to the release of this latest issue of the CIPScene, I was reviewing an article submitted by Jay Payette, President of the Carleton University Information Systems Club. You will find the article in this issue of CIPScene. Jay's composition prompted my thinking about what it takes to launch and maintain a successful career in IT today.

Graduates and newcomers to the IT world face many challenges. As Jay mentions, 1 in 10 US technology jobs will go overseas by the end of this year. I suggest that the same ratio probably applies to Canada. In addition, acquisitions are taking place on a regular basis. Often with accompanying reduction in the newly acquired workforce.

Finally, hi-tech has experienced a significant cut-back in IT and engineering resources over the recent years. That industry is finally starting to recover. However, it is still not operating at the same level as four or five years ago.

The result of these situations is fewer jobs and less job security. How does one cope with these conditions and achieve success in an IT career?

It used to be that if you were qualified, worked hard and adhered to a minimal code of ethics success was relatively easy to achieve in IT. There was a shortage of resources and plenty of firms willing to hire new graduates or inexperienced IT professionals, to build their future.

This is not sufficient anymore. In my opinion, you need to display a different attitude towards your career nowadays and take a much more hands-on approach to managing your future.

First, you need to develop and maintain a creative spirit. By this I mean that you have to always be on the lookout for new ideas and new ways of doing things. You have to keep an open mind and continually be curious about new advents in technology and the ways to use new tools and inventions. More specifically, how can these new elements fit in your work environment, add value to your work and what you are asked to produce.

Second, you need to maintain your skills and capabilities by adopting a "continuous learning mode" in the education and training related to your area of specialty. You need to plan ahead by developing a road map of all the elements that will contribute to your professional growth such as seminars, courses, certifications, etc.

Third, you need to take care of your profile and your visibility, within your own firm and within your community. You need to learn how to sell yourself. You need to join a professional association such as CIPS and participate in the association's events.

Finally, you need to have confidence in yourself and be willing to take some risk. The rewards will be worth it and you will achieve great satisfaction.

Claude Gelinus, I.S.P.
President

Message from the Program Chair



Program Update - March 2004

Our Women in Technology (WIT) 2004 event was a huge success with 100 grade 9 high school girls participating from 8 local area high schools. For more information, please see the related article in this issue of CIPScene.

The postponed November 19 Nanotechnology breakfast event was held on Wednesday, March 24 at the Ottawa Congress Centre. Our guest speaker, Douglas Mulhall, was a hit with the attendees who walked away with a wealth of nano information including an understanding of how Nanotechnology is only possible with information processing. Douglas wowed us with 3D printing, Optical processing, Genetic Algorithms (Sony's AIBO), Smart Dust, synthetic diamonds (indistinguishable from the real thing) running ultra-fast computers, and desktop fabrication to name a few of the innovations that illustrated to us how Nanotechnology will indeed transform Ottawa's IT horizon, and already is within our own Ottawa Nano node. To find out more about Douglas Mulhall's work please visit www.ourmolecularfuture.com and www.calcify.com

The Annual Federal Government CIO Update is just around the corner and this year we've spiced it up a bit. Along with her annual update, Michelle d'Auray, CIO for the Government of Canada, has agreed to provide responses to five topical questions posed by our CIPS membership. Please mark your calendars for this breakfast event on Thursday, April 15 at the Ottawa Congress Center. Check the CIPS Ottawa website for further details.

See you soon at an upcoming event!

Michele Lajeunesse
Program Chair

CIPS Ottawa 2003-2004 Program Overview

NOTE: The information below is subject to change, but provides a view of the great events you can expect.

DATE	TYPE OF EVENT	DETAILS
Thurs. Apr. 15	Breakfast Event	Federal Government CIO Update
Fri. May 14	Business Seminar	New Service Delivery Models and Outsourcing - Shaping the Future of Government Services
May 16 - 18	Informatics 2004 Hamilton, ON	Business Value through IT Best Practices
Thurs. June 10	Golf Tournament and AGM	Emerald Links

Please visit <http://local.cips.ca/ottawa> for full event details.



The **Women in Technology (WIT) 2004** event, held on March 4, was a huge success with 100 grade 9 high school girls from 8 Ottawa area high schools taking part in this annual event. The event is aimed at providing an educational program that focuses on the benefits of a career in Technology (not just IT, but sciences too) for women, thereby increasing the number of high school female students enrolling in math, science and computer science.

This year the attendees were treated to four enlightening presentations that included: two National DNA Databank specialists who led the young women through a DNA swabbing and fingerprinting exercise; a Mission Planner from the Canadian Space agency who engaged the girls about the Canadarm and a career in space; an articling student from Gowlings who engaged the girls on a career in Intellectual Property Law and the field of Biotechnology; and, a Technical Manager from NAV Canada who advised the women on a career in IT and the importance of education.

Thank you to our speakers who donated their time and shared their experiences with the students. To our host - Algonquin College - thank you for providing us with the facilities for the event.

I would like to recognize and extend my deepest gratitude to three amazing volunteers who made the event happen as part of the WIT 2004 Committee: Lara Wigmore, Tamim Rahman and Mike Whittaker. Thank you also to Andrew Forward who volunteered his time on the day of the event and provided us with these photos.

Michele Lajeunesse
WIT 2004 Event Coordinator



The girls taking it all in during a session



Sylvia Trudel, DNA Databank, instructing one of the girls on fingerprinting



The girls enjoy a pizza lunch and prepare to win one of two HP Digital cameras

SPONSORS WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE:

Major Sponsors: □ □ □ □ □



Grand Prize of 2 Digital Cameras: □ □



Donors of Prizes and Gift Bag contents:



*The Amalfi Spa
Rideau Centre*

Student Perspective

Leaving on a Jet Plane?

Most students dream of hopping on an airplane, and jetting off to the far corners of the world, experiencing the exotic culture and warm hospitality of far away lands. In reality this is happening every day, except it's not the students that are flying away, it's their jobs. Some of the statistics are rather staggering: 1 in 10 US technology jobs will go overseas by the end of this year. As well, Forrester Research predicts that in the next 15 years more than 3 million North American technology jobs will go to places like India, China and Eastern Europe. A lot of IT students are understandably upset with figures like this, especially after spending \$25,000 on a Computer Science or MIS degree. Some students are even going to the extent of demanding protectionist legislation from the federal government to protect the technology industry from low-cost outsourcing. While the voices of dissent are a little quieter in Canada as compared to the United States they are steadily getting louder, especially given recent announcements like that of CGI who committed to increase their number of Indian employees to 1000 by year's end - an amount which is minor when compared to IBM's 6000 Indian employees (Canadian Business, February 16, 2004, page 17).

At the risk of sounding unpopular, I find all of this complaining painfully ironic. For an industry that preached change as their mantra, the IT sector is doing an awful lot of backpedaling. There was a time not so long ago when techies were preaching the new global village - an international marketplace with unlimited possibilities. Now the message seems to be closed doors and protectionism. The problem with all of this alarm is that it is disturbingly shortsighted and non-progressive. The recent trend to outsource IT jobs is simply an extension of the evolution of global commerce. There was a time, though most students couldn't remember it, when running shoes were manufactured in Canada and Japanese cars were a novelty. Inevitably those markets were subject to global competition and you would be hard-pressed to find someone to argue that such an economic evolution has made us worse off. The simple fact is that this revolution in IT labour will create new opportunities in the technology sector and separate the men from the boys (or the women from the girls) when it comes to creating actual value.

Indian software companies have become exceptional at making very good technology at a very low price. This allows their customers (us) to increase efficiency and effectiveness through technology at bargain basement prices. This also means that while we are earning less on technology we are also spending less on technology, and that is why this student is not afraid of overseas outsourcing. In fact, this student loves the idea for one main reason - creating value just got easier. Technology knowledge workers are supposed to be able to identify business requirements and address them using innovative approaches to technology. What several of today's IT students think a knowledge worker does is write software code for a problem someone else is supposed to solve, these students are in for a rough ride. These are the jobs that are going overseas and some time during the plane ride the salary for these jobs are shrinking from \$70,000 to \$17,000. The jobs that aren't going anywhere are the knowledge jobs that we are supposed to be doing - the bright thinkers that run our companies, scribbling flow charts on the back of napkins while they meet with customers over lunch. Delivering value to customers, be they internal or external, is a job that is not going overseas but staying right here in North America. In fact, the boom of technology firms in India would make a nice new marketplace for a young budding business technology consultant.

It would do the North American IT industry well to listen to their own hype. If technology companies want to survive, it will have to be through innovation, growth and entrepreneurship, not through protectionism. The market has become more competitive and a lot of techies will lose their jobs (that is definitely not new news) but amongst all of the turmoil lies the opportunity for those who can adapt and learn to deliver value in the new, dare I say even more global, world of IT. For those who do manage to deliver value to their customers, trips to far off of lands will be that much more pleasurable because they know their jobs are waiting for them safely back at home

Jay Payette
President
Carleton University Information Systems Club
Sprott School of Business

Informatics 2004 - Delivering Business Value through IT Best Practices

As we move into the 21st Century, there is an increasing demand that Information Technology deliver clear business value. IT departments are under the gun to improve value and reduce cost, with no excuses allowed for why Best Practices have not been followed. The bottom line for IT departments and IT professionals: deliver to Best Standards of Practice ... or else!

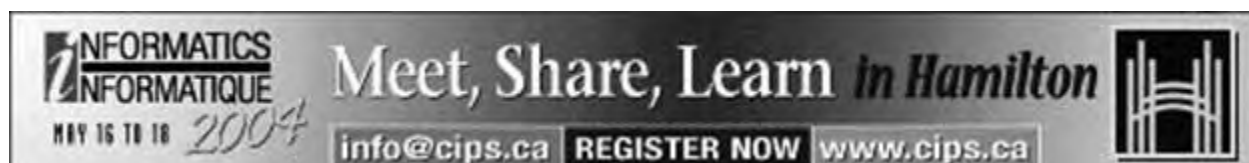
Informatics 2004, the CIPS National conference, will provide the information you need to make informed judgments about emerging Best Practices and Standards of Practice. This year, in addition to the usual conference sessions and key-notes, there are in-depth tutorials, and even a full training course and certification exam - all focused on Best Practices for IT.

Half-day tutorials will cover a number of best practices including CMM (Capability Maturity Model), Agile methods, and CSA standards. For the first time ever, Informatics is offering the equivalent of a 3 day training course, a \$1995 value, as part of the conference. The ITIL* foundation certification course will run from Monday to Wednesday with Tuesday being a half day. An exam review will be held on Wednesday morning and the exam will be given on Wednesday afternoon. Successful completion of the exam earns the ITIL Foundation certificate, a pre-requisite for the Practitioner and Masters programs. Conference registration plus \$400 gets you the course and the exam as well as all conference keynotes and social events. There is a limit of 20 students, so you'll want to register quickly.

But it wouldn't be a CIPS conference without social activities and time to meet and mingle with your peers from across the country. There's a welcome reception on Sunday evening; a silent auction in support of Foodshare on Monday; and a winery tour and dinner as a wrap up on Tuesday evening.

Informatics 2004 is May 16-18 in Hamilton, Ontario. Full registration for members is only \$895 until March 15. Students can register for as little as \$100. Special hotel and airline rates have also been negotiated for delegates. This is one of the best education values available - don't miss it! Full details and on line registration are available at www.cipsinformatics.ca

(*) ITIL (www.itil.org.uk) is the most widely accepted approach to IT Service Management in the world. ITIL provides a cohesive set of best practices, drawn from the public and private sectors internationally. It is supported by a comprehensive qualification scheme, accredited training organizations, and implementation and assessment tools. ITIL has been adopted by many major Canadian organizations including the federal government.



CIPS Scholarships 2003

Once again, the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) has offered the opportunity for three institutions to participate in our Scholarship Program. This year we will be presenting scholarships to recipients from Ottawa University and Carleton University - each of which offer academic programs accredited by CIPS.

As in previous years, we are looking for an individual student who meets the following criteria. The student must:

- o be registered in a full-time CIPS accredited program in the academic year for which the award is given (i.e., 2003);
- o have proven abilities as demonstrated by academic achievements (specific limits to be set by the College or University);
- o have demonstrated leadership ability in an academic or external related work experience;
- o have career interests related to the information processing industry; and
- o have good communication skills - both oral and written.

Each scholarship has a total value of \$625 - \$500 in cash; admission to regular CIPS Ottawa meetings for a year (\$100 value); and CIPS Student membership for a year (\$25 value). The scholarships will be awarded at the annual CIO Breakfast being held this year at the Ottawa Congress Centre, on April 15th.

The CIPS Scholarship winners are:

Gail Banaszkievicz of Carleton University

Gail is a second year student at Carleton University, and is enrolled in the Bachelor of Computer Science, Software and Computing Stream. She entered Carleton from High School with an A+ average and has maintained that level of excellence in her first year of studies.

Laura Emond of Ottawa University

Laura was involved in the Computer Science Student Association at Ottawa University, and was also a class representative. She contributed to the IT community through active involvement in industry groups, user groups, and associations like CIPS to share knowledge and expertise.

Professional Development Week 2004 (PDW2004)

CIPS MEMBERS RECEIVE DPI MEMBER RATES FOR PDW 2004

Don't miss DPI's Annual Professional Development Week May 26-28, 2004 at the Ottawa Congress Centre and find out more about enabled government - our changing world. This is your chance to listen to excellent speakers on a variety of subjects that are of interest to individuals within the IM/IT community. As part of our ongoing partnership with DPI, CIPS members will receive the discounted rate of just \$449 per registration.

To view the program, visit: www.dpi-canada.com and register on-line today.



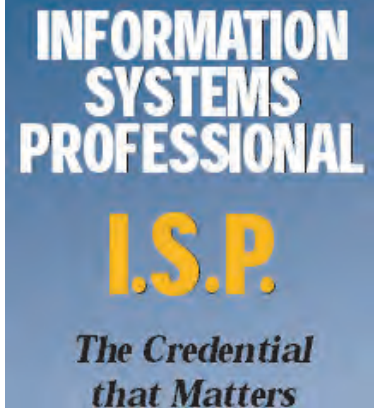
New ISPs

CIPS Ottawa would like to welcome the following new I.S.P. members:

□ Tom Hamilton I.S.P. □ □ Richard Wanner I.S.P.

I.S.P. Certification contributes to a strong professional image, profile and credibility, high standards of practice and ethics, public protection and individual career development. I.S.P. Certification is obtained through the Information Systems Professional of Canada designation, (I.S.P.). For more information visit:
<http://www.cips.ca/standards/>.

Your I.S.P. Committee would like to remind you that attending local CIPS events helps you earn professional development units towards I.S.P. re-certification. See you at the April event!



New ISPs: Profile Ingrid Kreitz

Ingrid Kreitz is a systems analyst with Semiconductor Insights Inc., an engineering consulting firm based in Kanata, Ontario. During her ten years there, her focus has been database administration, database development and the design and implementation of a complete spectrum of business systems and software, ranging from financial software to custom engineering applications. She graduated in 1992 from the three-year Information Systems program at Cambrian College in Sudbury and subsequently worked as a support programmer for Revenue Canada.

In December of 2003, Ingrid graduated from the Project Management program at Algonquin College and has been awarded the I.S.P. designation from C.I.P.S.

Reasons for acquiring the ISP designation:

- o Staying marketable to employers and show professionalism;
- o Networking with others in the same profession; and
- o Learning more about the industry and to be kept informed about technology.

CIPS Recruit an IT Campaign

Wanna get away? Start here...



CIPS members are asked to refer new members to CIPS to be eligible to win monthly prizes and a grand prize at the end of the campaign

For more information on the Recruit an IT Professional Campaign, please visit the CIPS National Web site: <http://www.cips.ca/join/rules> or contact info@cips.ca.

CIPS Ottawa 2003-2004 Patrons

The companies listed below are the Patrons of CIPS Ottawa. These companies provide important financial support to our Section, enabling us to provide our members with high-quality services at a reasonable cost. We thank them for their continuing support!



i n v e n t



Computer Associates™



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

