CIPScene

Canadian Information Processing Society, Calgary Section JANUARY 2002

Speakers

Darlene Alaric,
Acting Executive Director, EAI Industry Consortium

Michael Kuhbock,
Chairman of the Board, EAI Industry Consortium
(Photo not available)

Kurt Kowalchuk,
Project Manager

Date
Thursday, January 10, 2002

Time
11:30 am
Registration

12:00 noon
Presentation

Place
Calgary Chamber of Commerce
4 Floor, 517 Centre

Enterprise Application Integration – **Maximizing Existing Technology Investments**

CIPS **JANUARY** LUNCH MEETING

"Knowledge Sharing and Networking"

Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) is rapidly becoming the latest IT buzzword. Recognized as valuable and strategic technology to progressive companies, EAI provides a powerful set of tools that enable the elimination of silos of process, data, and applications within organizations. EAI's value lies in its ability to share information and processes both within the organization and with other organizations.

A recent study by a large market intelligence and advisory firm predicts that worldwide revenues for the EAI sector will increase from $38 billion in 2000 to $116.5 billion in 2005.

At the CIPS January luncheon, three speakers will explore this technology. First, Darlene Alaric and Michael Kuhbock will define for us what EAI is, discuss the EAI Industry Consortium, give an overview of its mandate, and explore why EAI is becoming a very busy sector of the IT industry.

Kurt Kowalchuk will then provide a brief summary of his recent experiences with EAI, tool selection processes, and implementation activities. CIPS members and their guests will have a unique opportunity to hear about EAI lessons learned.

Speakers

Darlene Alaric is the acting Executive Director of the EAI Industry Consortium. She has been with the Consortium since the inception and has led the development of the promotional campaign and structure of the committees. Ms. Alaric has fourteen years of experience in sales and operational management in the technology industry.

Michael Kuhbock is the Chairman of the Board of the EAI Industry Consortium and CEO of Groundswell Revolution. He has spent the last sixteen years leading global organizations and local companies in their marketing, strategic and business development, program, and project management.

Kurt Kowalchuk is a project manager with over 25 years of IT experience. He has spent much of the last twenty years consulting internationally, mainly in the UK and Europe. The projects that he has been involved with span diverse industries and technologies. Recently Kurt has been working with ENMAX in the selection and implementation of EAI tools.

Please register by noon on Monday, January 7, 2002 as seating is limited. Register online at https://secure.nl2k.ab.ca/aplus/forms/cipsluncheon.html or phone CIPS at (403) 244-4487. Prepayment by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express will be accepted over the phone. No-shows will be billed if a reservation has not been cancelled two days in advance of the luncheon. Alternatively, you can send a replacement if you cannot attend. **Prepaid seats will be guaranteed until 12:00 noon, at which time they may be released for general admission.**

PRICES *- Pre-registered (Prices include GST)*
Members - ***$30.50***
Non-members - ***$38.00***
Students - ***$21.50***
A two dollar surcharge will apply for all walk-ins.

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CIPScene

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FOCUS on Membership

Marion Ng
Membership Director

During 2001/2002, the CIPS Board revised its vision to focus on CIPS as a 'community' of IT professionals. In addition, feedback received by Board members and the CIPS office indicated that CIPS is not as prominent within the Calgary IT community as it should be. To address both these issues, this year's Membership Committee directed its focus toward recognizing and supporting its valuable CIPS members and raising the awareness of CIPS in the Calgary IT community at large.

This year, the Membership Committee hit the ground running in an exciting way, grasping the 'community concept'. It is our hope that the CIPS community joins the spirit and comes along for the ride.

In October, the Membership Committee worked with the Student and Academic Liaison portfolios to re-establish Student CIPS meetings to encourage membership. As an IT community, we need to support our students, because they are our future. A schedule of Student CIPS meetings has been planned for each month in the first quarter of 2002 and a concerted effort has been made to involve all post-secondary institutions. Meetings will be focused on career management, how IT crosses industries, and how the professional roles in IT work together in the 'real world'. If you are approached to participate in a panel, I encourage you to consider volunteering the two hours to help make an audience of students aware of the realities and/or mechanics of our industry. If you are interested in supporting this effort, contact the CIPS office. Also be sure to watch the Student column for more information on these meetings.

At the November lunch, we launched the 2002/2003 Membership Drive. The theme for this year's membership drive is **'Celebrating Professionalism Through Community'**. The drive will run from November 2002 through to June 2003. As in the past, there will be two draws, one from all new members joining and one from all referrers at the end of the drive. The Student and Academic Liaison portfolios have joined the membership drive this year by offering two student draws, one for all new student members and one for all student referrers. (Note – the new member MUST indicate the REFERRER'S NAME ON THE NEW MEMBER APPLICATION in order for the referrer to be eligible for the draw.) ***The draw this year in each case is a one-year renewal of CIPS membership to be applied to the next renewal year.*** We encourage you to tell your employers, employees, colleagues, and friends about CIPS. To assist you, 8.5" x 14" Membership Drive posters for your office or school bulletin boards are available. The Membership Committee has printed individual invitations to distribute to specific potential members. These are available at CIPS lunches and by contacting the CIPS office. In addition, if any corporation would like a membership presentation, this can be arranged by calling the CIPS office or emailing calgarydata@cips.ca.

Also in November, the Membership and Social portfolios organized an industry pub night to provide an opportunity for ample networking, support for those wanting support (mentoring) in job search

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

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FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3...

skills, and to 'WELCOME' all new members who joined in 2001/2002. There were about 150 in attendance and to quote one comment received, 'there was a *buzz* in the room'. Feedback indicates attendees' expections were met or exceeded, and everyone had a good time. (Check out the photos on pages 12 and 13!) Many thanks to the registration and booth volunteers for keeping everything flowing. Very special thanks to the industry content resources for volunteering their time to share their expertise to support those in our community needing the advice.

So what is next?

From the November lunch onward, you may have noticed volunteers taking pictures and video. This is in preparation for our next project, a somewhat overdue CIPS corporate presentation 'make-over', among other things. Going forward for the next few months, volunteers will try and capture the 'spirit' of CIPS in photo and video form at as many events as possible. At each lunch, a volunteer will be video-taping your views and opinions on CIPS. If you are interested in commenting on any aspect of CIPS (lunches, seminar series, SIGs, CIO forum, membership, sponsorship, etc.), look for the video person or location and provide your comments.

The Membership Committee must confess – we are a little tardy with anniversary pin recognition but we will catch up in February. Our thanks to those members who are waiting patiently for their pins. In 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 there are a number of members with significant anniversaries. Acknowledgement and recognition of members is very important so plans are in the works for a tribute to significant anniversaries.

More to come? Currently, some other projects are in the concept stage and I'll keep you posted as they become finalized.

The Membership Committee hopes you join the spirit of the celebrating our CIPS community in 2002. If you have any suggestions or questions, would like to volunteer in our activities, or would like a corporate presentation, look for the Membership Committee member wearing a committee member ribbon at the lunches, contact the office, or email calgarydata@cips.ca.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, I wish you all the best 2002 can offer!

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Clarity, Commitment, Collaboration, Completion

CIPS **JANUARY** SEMINAR
"Knowledge Sharing and Networking"

Date
Thursday, January 17, 2002

Time
7:30 am
Registration and continental breakfast

8:00 am – 9:00 am
Presentation

9:00 am - 9:15 am
Question and answer period; wrap-up

Location*
Fifth Avenue Place
2nd Floor, West Tower
202, 237 – 4 Avenue SW
Please note new address

Join us for this invaluable breakfast session!

Refer to the enclosed insert for registration information or register online at **https://secure.nl2k.ab.ca/aplus/forms/cipseminar.html.**

In this brief workshop participants will depart with tools to use immediately in their daily work as analysts, architects, and project leaders. The focus is on leveraging the talents of the workforce affected by the project to ensure that system goals are defined, accomplished, and maintained throughout the design life cycle of the work system.

Part 1: Getting Clear
Prior to beginning the system design it is critical that the group and the analyst team share the same Vision, Mission, and Objectives. In the seminar we will discuss ways to achieve consensus quickly and effectively by creating integration paths between corporate imperatives and user goals.

Part 2: Commitment
Commitment is seldom genuine until trust is established between the analyst team and the end users. Trust is established by doing significant things together as a combined team. We will discuss how Kaizen Blitz is effective in quickly repairing broken systems while building the ultimate work system.

Part 3: Collaboration
Another word for Project Management, collaboration is defined as groups consistent and with the same thinking working towards worthwhile goals. Often left behind, the goals must be in alignment with the Vision, Mission, and Objectives defined previously.

Part 4: Completion
Every project has an end point... or does it? Defining incremental endpoints, often referred to as milestones, is critical. Most often the collaboration and commitment fall off because of "scope creep". We will discuss ways of preventing this inevitable event from derailing the enthusiasm and productivity of the project.

About Gord McDonald
Gord has been building and operating systems for 22 years working mainly in the manufacturing, mining, chemical, and construction sectors. Gord is best known for his ten years international work with the explosives manufacturing industry and around emerging technologies in Calgary. Gord is an expert ISO 9001 Quality Management System Designer and author of *Integrated Work Systems*.

Seminar Series 2001 - 2002

CIPS Calgary Seminar Series are catered by the Second Cup, Fifth Avenue Place.

You won't want to miss any of these important topics:

Thursday, February 21, 2002
Project Management – The PMBOK® Guide 2000: An Insider's Story
Greg Skulmoski

Thursday, March 21, 2002
Internet Security: How to Secure the Future
Peter Jarmics

Thursday, April 18, 2002
Wireless Communications
Martin Stares

Thursday, May 16, 2002
Report from the Trenches: How "Extreme" is Extreme Programming?
Gerard Meszaros

CIPS Calgary Section

Future Meeting Dates – 11:30 am

Thursday January 10, 2002	Wednesday April 3, 2002
Tuesday February 5, 2002	Wednesday May 1, 2002
Wednesday March 6, 2002	Wednesday June 5, 2002

All meetings are held at the Calgary Chamber of Commerce

4 Floor, 517 Centre Street S.

CIPS Events

January 9, 2002	**STUDENT PIZZA NIGHT** 5:30 pm Brewster's Eau Claire
January 16, 2002	**STUDENT SPEAKER NIGHT** 7:00 pm ITC 114 University of Calgary
January 17, 2002	**2002 SEMINAR SERIES** *Clarity, Commitment, Collaboration, Completion* 7:30 am - 9:15 am Fifth Avenue Place Conference Centre 202, 237 - 4 Avenue SW (Note new address)
January 22, 2002	**DATA WAREHOUSE SIG** *Oracle Warehouse Builder* 12:00 noon EDS (System House) 400, 112 – 4 Avenue SW
January 24, 2002	**INDUSTRY PUB NIGHT** Brewsters Eau Claire 101 Barclay Parade SW
February 21, 2002	**GIS SIG** *Implementation for the City of Calgary Assessment Department* 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Ceili's Irish Pub & Restaurant 513 – 8 Avenue SW
March 12, 2002	**PROJECT MANAGEMENT SIG** 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Fifth Avenue Place Conference Centre 202, 237 – 4 Avenue SW

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EXECUTIVE **NOTEPAD**

Maria Anderson
President

As I write this edition of the Executive Notepad, it's just before Christmas 2001 and I am getting ready to celebrate the holidays with my family. As I reflect on 2001, I am finding it difficult to recall where the past year has gone. It seems like only yesterday we were dealing with Y2K issues and wondering what January 1, 2000 would bring us. The phenomenon of time flying is no surprise to any of us. There has to be a statistical, scientific relationship here - the older I get, the more quickly time passes. So why is it we're always in a hurry? Where are we, as a society, headed in such a mad rush?

I must admit that I am as guilty of this as anyone. I rush from meeting to meeting and, in between, I try to get some work done. This routine seems fairly common today because no matter where you go, people appear to be in a hurry - during lunch, walking down the street, on the road. The common theme is to do more and/or better. Along with that observation, it appears as though everything is disposable. Life today seems to be about quantity, not quality. There is more emphasis on just getting a job done as opposed to getting a job done right. What's happened to us? Can we blame the video game explosion? The objective of playing video games is to go faster, do better than your previous score or opponent. Is it because we're all more connected now via cell phones and email? The temptation is to try and get more done with less time - while on the train, over lunch, etc.

In the IT industry, we feel the effect of this more than other industries because we are forced to learn and work at the speed of light - this is the nature of the industry. Software changes rapidly, programming languages change, new technology surfaces and we, as professionals, are expected to stay on top of it all. By the time an IT project in an organization is approved, the planned technology may have changed or new technology may have come to light that is unproven but may be better suited. When the project gets started, the expectation is that a product will be available for use in only a few short months. It's difficult for project managers and technical people alike to get a quality product out to the user community when the development time keeps shrinking. At times, the emphasis is on getting the bare minimum completed by the project deadline and then moving all the 'nice to haves' into an enhancement phase of the project.

My observation is that this 'rushing around' phenomenon is fairly recent. My parents lead a very different life than I. They are immigrants from Portugal who came to Canada in the 1950s in search of a better life. My father worked for the same employer for approximately thirty years before retiring. After retirement, he and my mother became small business owners. They came here with little education and money but with a great determination to do better. It wasn't about acquiring material things and wealth, but living comfortably and being able to provide me with the education they never had. They had a few important, life-long goals and they achieved them. My parents did not appear to be in this constant state of rushing around day after day. Even today, I find it difficult to explain to my parents why I am so busy all the time.

Of course, societal expectations were very different thirty years ago than they are today but that doesn't mean that some of the solid business ethics that were prevalent then are not applicable now. My parents, as small business owners, were concerned with giving customers a quality product and their reputation in the business community meant everything to them. In all the years they owned their business, they never turned away an angry customer - they always made sure their customers were pleased with the product they purchased. My parents were definitely more concerned with quality rather than quantity. This wasn't easy - it meant working very hard - but they felt it was their responsibility to provide customers what they were promised.

Do we provide this type of service in the IT industry today? I think that we try to, but the pace of life today sometimes makes it very difficult. So how do we slow down? How do we concentrate on delivering a quality product or service? I believe that one way to slow down the treadmill is to take the time to plan our short-term and long-term goals better. We need time to think about what we want to accomplish and direct our energies toward those goals. Our first instinct is just to 'do' rather than first plan and then deliver what we intended. Planning often seems like a 'do nothing' activity yet it often saves time in the end because efforts are directed towards well-defined goals. This is one of my resolutions for the coming year – to plan on a daily basis and keep the long-term goals in focus, whether they be professional or personal in nature. How will you change your life this year?

Data Warehouse SIG

Oracle Warehouse Builder

Many IT organizations involved with building data warehouses and data marts on an Oracle database have not been able to justify the added expense of specialized Extract, Transform, and Load (ETL) tools. Oracle Warehouse Builder provides a highly productive and low cost design and deployment environment that helps organizations leverage their investment in Oracle database skills and technology. This session will demonstrate the key functional capabilities of Oracle Warehouse Builder, including:

- Metadata reporting portal including impact analysis and data lineage tracking
- Productive modeling UI for ETL processes and target structures
- Native PL/SQL and SQL*Loader code generation
- Source data support including flat files, XML, SQL Server, DB/2, Oracle, and SAP
- Metadata integration with business intelligence and data modeling tools.

Date:	Tuesday, January 22, 2002
Time:	12:00 Noon **(**Brown Bag Lunch Meeting)
Place:	EDS (System House) 400, 112 – 4 Avenue SW (Sun Life Building East)
Subject:	Oracle Warehouse Builder
Speaker:	Blair Watson

NO ADMISSION CHARGE.

All are welcome. Please Contact Hassan Sherazi at 228-5423 if you need more information.

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mortonb@webmaxim.com
www.vbusers.net

To post your upcoming SIG events, contact Nguyen Tran by phone at (403) 514-4004 or email ntran@cips.ca.

The next meeting of the GIS SIG will be on February 21, 2002. Due to the popularity of having the GIS SIG meetings in a pub, we will be meeting at Ceili's. The speaker will be Allan Benvin. Allan will be discussing the implementation of GIS as part of the new assessment system being developed for the City of Calgary. Topics covered will include enterprise GIS, rolling spatial history, spatial data manipulation and the integration of business and spatial data.

Allan Benvin is a Senior GIS Consultant with GDS & Associates and has been involved on the GIS component of the City of Calgary Assessment project since October of 2000.

Topic:	*Enterprise GIS Implementation for the City of Calgary Assessment Department*
Date:	February 21, 2002
Time:	3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Location:	Downstairs room at Ceili's Irish Pub & Restaurant 513 – 8 Avenue SW
Cost:	Attendance is free.
Register online at:	http://www.associationsplus.ca/cipsig

March GIS SIG Event

Title:	*Delivering Maps on the Web Using ArcIMS*
Date:	March 28, 2002
Time:	3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Location:	Downstairs room at Ceili's Irish Pub & Restaurant 513 – 8 Avenue SW
Cost:	Attendance is free.
Register online at:	http://www.associationsplus.ca/cipsig

For further details concerning any of these events, contact Allan Benvin at:

Phone: (403) 508-2864; Fax: (403) 508-2867;
Email: abenvin@gds.ca

Project Management SIG

Our November 2001 session featured **Steve White**, a senior consultant with Sierra Systems, presenting ***Enterprise Application Integration (EAI): The Project Manager's Challenge***.

Steve first helped us to understand what is meant by this new industry buzzword – "EAI". Based on his experience, he identified what makes EAI projects different from other IS projects and highlighted success factors and potential "gotchas" in the areas of planning, managing, and going live. The session was well-attended and Steve's insights were much appreciated.

Thank you to our session sponsor, **Sierra Systems.** Sierra Systems is one of North America's leading management consulting and systems integration firms. In business since 1966, today the firm has 900 consultants who deliver business solutions globally from fourteen offices throughout Canada and the US.

The next PM SIG presentation will be held:

Date	Tuesday, March 12, 2002
Time	12:00 noon (sharp) – 1:00 pm
Location	**Fifth Avenue Place Conference Centre has moved. The new location is:* 2nd Floor Conference Room Fifth Avenue Place, West Tower 237 – 4 Avenue SW

This session will feature **Dr. Janice Thomas,** who will provide an update on the PMI-sponsored research study on selling project management to senior executives. Janice presented the results from the first phase of this research to the PM SIG audience in January 2001. This session will be sponsored by **Ethier Associates.** More details regarding the session and how to register will be available soon.

Should you wish further information please contact:

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Email: BillBentley@corvelle.com

Karen Wright
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Blake Kanewischer
Publications Director

Economists Versus Consumers: Who Wins?

Recently, CNN, CBC, and other major media outlets trumpeted a finding of the National Bureau of Economic Research that suggested that the US had 'officially' entered a recession in March 2001. However, other indicators suggest that the effects of the economic contraction were exacerbated by the events of September 11th.

In the wake of that infamous date, many companies, both inside and outside the high-tech sector, laid off tens of thousands of workers, with transportation-related companies taking a huge hit. Many manufacturing companies indicated they were experiencing slowdowns in primary or secondary demand.

In short, to listen to the economists, CEOs, business leaders, and other tall foreheads, the economy is a shambles. Canada and the US have been plunged into a recession – albeit one anticipated to be short-lived.

In the face of this economic uncertainty, nearly unprecedented prime rates (the rate at which preferred creditors can borrow money) have sprung up. Mortgage rates are as low as they've been at any point in the past twenty years.

It's cheaper to buy a car from any of the Big Three now than at any point in the recent past, and incentives and rebates have made a resurgence. Even luxury and import cars are doing well. BMW and Mercedes-Benz have announced record or near-record sales with several weeks yet to go in the year. Honda Civics and Accords are flying off the lots.

Wal-Mart, Costco, and many of the big-box stores are as crowded as they've ever been, even accounting for the holiday season. The suburban malls are packed, as are the outdoor "shopping destinations."

Surely these are incompatible with each other?

The people armed with spreadsheets, calculators, and statistics packages are firmly encamped in recession territory. The people armed with cash, debit cards, and credit cards are firmly encamped across a no-man's land from the calculator-wielding pack.

A brief (economic) history lesson may be in order here, as there is some insight to be gained from this. During the last major recession, which began in 1990 and ran through to late 1991, unemployment was as high as 12 – 14%. Currently, unemployment is about 7.5%. This provides one clue to why the recession hasn't had the same impact today as it did a decade ago.

Simply put, a recession only affects a certain segment of the population. There is a concept in economics known as the natural unemployment rate, which is essentially a "normal" or "expected" unemployment rate within an economy. It reflects the imperfect nature of the employer/employee supply/demand curves. Historically, this is considered to be between 8 and 8.5% in Canada and about 6% in the US. In theory, if unemployment drops below this figure, inflationary pressures begin to be present in the economy, and inflation will rise beyond the desired 1 – 3% range.

Since the recession of the early 1990s affected as much as 6 – 7% of the population who would otherwise have been employed, that had a significant impact on consumer confidence and spending. The present "recession" has simply returned the economy to equilibrium; consumer confidence and spending is relatively buoyant.

Economists, however, are left scratching their heads because the most recent decade, and especially the previous two or three years, has tested the validity of many fundamental economic theories. As many have noted, unemployment in the US hit an all-time low of 4.1% in 2000, and Canadian unemployment hit *its* all-time low at 6.8% in the same year. US inflation was between 1.5 and 3.5% through the recent economic boom, while the comparable Canadian figures ranged from 0.2 – 2.7%.

The boom was so atypical that economists and business people happily abandoned the safety of their well-constructed theories. At present, US and Canadian unemployment is still below the natural rate of unemployment for each economy.

In short, the economy demonstrated that for a relatively short period of time, it is capable of full absorption, given otherwise perfect conditions for that to occur. However, over time, like a paper towel that has soaked up more than its "rated capacity" of liquids, it will weaken and even break. Of course, the economy has a little more resilience than a paper towel – it can mend itself, given sufficient time.

However, it would appear that the economy has "broken," if one can call a return to equilibrium "broken." Thus, it would almost appear that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15...

Mark Olson, I.S.P.
President, CIPS Alberta

Regulation Renewal

When the regulation under which CIPS Alberta was established, it included a five-year renewal clause.

In anticipation of this, board members Steve Hoskin and Ross Hewett, with input from a number of additional volunteers, have been reviewing the Regulation. They have drafted a number of changes, primarily intended to make the Regulation better fit current practices at the national level and to help streamline and simplify application and administrative processes.

The revised regulation has passed a preliminary review by Alberta Human Resources and Employment. We are currently in the process of determining our next steps, which will include a review of the changes by the membership.

Planning Process

The board has committed to completing a major planning meeting on December 8. Our intent is to identify an achievable number of deliverables to be completed in the 2001-2002 year.

Opportunities that we have identified include:

- participation in the establishment of the Professional Standards Council
- establishment of an IT professionalism award
- participation in the National I.S.P. Criteria Review committee
- continuation of marketing efforts.

If you would like to suggest or comment on the opportunities that CIPS Alberta should pursue, please contact me at olsonm@cips.ca.

Update: 2001-2002 Strategic Plan

On December 8, 2001 the CIPS Alberta Board completed an all-day strategic planning session. More than 24 different opportunities were evaluated, and of these 15 initiatives were selected for pursuit in the coming year.

In this update, I want to share with you some of these key initiatives.

The board will be supporting and sending representation to the I.S.P. Criteria Review Committee. This national level committee is examining alternative educational routes for entry to the I.S.P. designation. The intent of this initiative is consider ways in which more practitioners may qualify for the I.S.P., while at the same time maintaining the high standards established by current holders.

A key initiative to be completed is the development and population of a marketing support database. This will allow us to collect and maintain a record of key individuals who influence decisions within the IT field in Alberta, with a focus on those who acquire IT services. Development of this resource will help reduce the cost and increase the impact of future marketing efforts.

One of these initiatives is the establishment of an IT professionalism award. The intent is to use the solicitation of nominations and the presentation of this award to help promote the contribution of IT practitioners, and to increase awareness of the importance of professionalism and the I.S.P. designation to the general public. We are currently investigating the possibility of partnering with other organizations in order to extend the influence and impact of this initiative.

Another initiative is to conduct a survey of "IT Consumers" in Alberta. Our intent is to learn more about their needs, their current understanding of the I.S.P., and identify best strategies to effectively promote the designation.

These initiatives are only a few that are being undertaken, and are in addition to the ongoing work required to maintain and administer the designation.

The complete plan may be found at http://www.cips.ca/alberta/2001-2002_plan.html. I would encourage you to review this plan, and contact me or any other director with the particular skills you have to contribute to any one of these initiatives.

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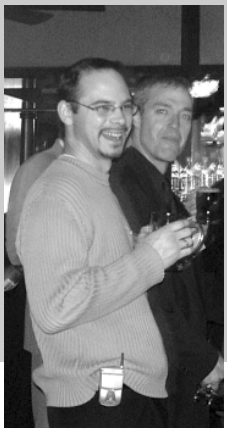
Industry Pub Night

November 22, 2001

CIPS Industry Pub Night was a raging success, with more than 150 CIPS members and guests gathered together at Brewsters for an evening of networking and relaxation.



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Mar 13, 20-21
May 22, 29-30
Sep 11, 18-19
Nov 13, 20-21

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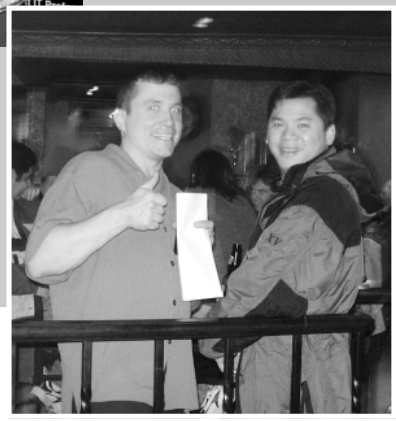

CIPS Calgary Section

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES 2002

Industry Nights

January 24, 2002

February 28, 2002

March 28, 2002

April 25, 2002

May 30, 2002

June 27, 2002

Shilo Beechinor
Student Chair

There are many exciting things happening in the student section right now. If you log onto the website you will see that there are numerous activities planned for the next couple of months. First of all, there will be a Student Pizza Night on Wednesday, January 9, 2002 at Brewster's Eau Claire at 5:30 pm. This event is for members only and there will be free pizza and Happy Hour drink prices. The purpose of this event is to mix and mingle, and most of the board members will be in attendance to meet and greet the students.

Also, I am pleased to announce that the first Student Speaker Night will be taking place on Wednesday, January 16, 2002 at 7:00 pm in the ITC 114 at the U of C. Edmund Jones, a professional career counsellor, will be speaking about various techniques that students can use to get a job. The topic for our February speaker night will be Security. Please stay tuned for more details.

In addition, we have changed the focus of our February 15 Career Gateway. Instead of showcasing the industry to the students, we are going to showcase the students' abilities to you, the industry professionals. There will be more details to come on that in next month's newsletter.

Finally, thank you to all for your support of the mentoring program! We have had many interested applicants, but could always use more. As always, feel free to contact me for more information on any of the events the student section is running!

2002 - Will Y2K be Finally Put to Rest?

Trent Moskal

Y2K really was a non-event. Everyone's computer didn't crash and the world didn't fall apart. It was actually quite boring, as the only stories to report were the lack thereof. Many companies overspent their IT budgets for 1998, 1999, and 2000, upgrading everything they could so disaster wouldn't strike. As a result there wasn't enough in the pot to go around for 2001. Layoffs and cutbacks were both frequent and extensive. Many high-tech companies saw their share prices crash.

Computers and technology have not disappeared in 2002. In fact, the reliance on them is increasing each year. Scanners, digital cameras, DVD players, and 21" monitors are now becoming common in the workplace. As the budgets are released for 2002, expect to see companies putting more money back into IT.

Software must continually be upgraded, and in doing so greater demands are placed on the hardware. Windows 95 and 3.1 are no longer supported, and next on the list will be Windows NT 4.0. The cost for Windows XP professional Edition is $299 US and Office XP Professional is $579 US. The minimum requirements to run XP are: a Pentium 300, 128 MB of RAM, and 1.5 gigabytes of free hard disk space.

Preventative maintenance measures will be enhanced, such as firewalls and anti-virus software. Viruses are becoming more advanced, and are being released more frequently. A recent example is the "Goner" virus, which replicated at an extremely fast rate and corrupted anti-virus software itself. The anti-virus software appears to be working in the background but is crippled, and susceptible to other virus attacks in the future.

Hardware and software will both need to be upgraded continually, which means that IT budgets will continue to grow in the future.

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ECONOMISTS VERSUS CONSUMERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10...

consumers have engaged their collective memories further back than the prognosticators, who appeared only too happy to engage in lemming-like behaviour.

Who wins? In this case, consumers. They can see beyond the smoke, mirrors, and posturing emanating from Washington, New York, Toronto, and Ottawa.

As an IT professional, what does this mean to you? It's important to differentiate paradigm shifts that will completely shatter our world as we know it, from flavours of the week. There's a wonderful term that the renowned theologian R.M. Hare popularized – *blik*. It refers to a belief so deeply held that it is profoundly unfalsifiable and, by extension, unverifiable. We simply cannot budge from these bliks, save in the face of truly overwhelming evidence, which a decade of economic experience, or perhaps only three years, is not.

Similarly, we cannot be certain that the web is truly the saviour of computing as we know it. Nor can we be certain that quantum computing is the saviour of computing. We need to carefully evaluate everything in light of what is known and what is considered "firm." This applies both to economics and information technology.

So, the next time you hear about a silver bullet that the authorities are all firmly united behind, consider it carefully and skeptically. You may just be ignoring the past at your own peril.

CIPS

Social Activities 2002

March

Beach Volleyball Tournament

May

Players Choice Pub Night

July / August

Golf Tournament

Contact the CIPS Calgary office at (403) 245-0633 or email calgary@cips.ca for more information

MOUNT ROYAL COLLEGE

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Computer Information Systems students acquire a solid foundation in programming, Web design and development, systems analysis and design, software testing, hardware and network support, Internet development, and an in-depth knowledge of standard business practices before going to the workplace. Our next group of students will be available to work from May – August 2002.

By hiring a Computer Information Systems student for a four-month full-time work term you'll gain enthusiastic employees who can provide affordable assistance during peak periods, complete special projects, and inject new ideas into your business! Becoming a partner is easy… simply contact Dotti MacNeil, Work Experience Coordinator with Career Services, by email at dmacneil@mtroyal.ab.ca or by phone at 240-7059.

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