Former IS / MIS Students from Canisius College

BETSY (MUGO) BEVILACQUA '03, MBA '06

Buffalo, NY - If you’re like 1.8 billion other people around the world, you’re on Facebook. But while we communicate on the most widely used social media platform, Betsy (Mugo) Bevilacqua is part of the team that works behind the scenes to ensure that the posts, photos and purchases you make don’t fall into the wrong hands.

Bevilacqua is head of security programs and operations for Facebook in Menlo Park, CA. Her job is “to maximize the impact of the security team by centralizing business operations and driving strategic projects and programs,” she explains.

The position is the latest in Bevilacqua’s meteoric rise in the information security industry.

Early technical roles for this native of Nairobi, Kenya, included jobs at Sodexo and Independent Health. Bevilacqua always wanted to work in the technology industry, so when an opportunity arose to scale the information security risk program at eBay, Bevilacqua moved out west.

“As businesses grow and expand, so too does the nature of threats to systems and data security,” she says.

A secondary albeit equally vital threat is the field’s growing shortage of skilled professionals, which is expected to reach 1.5 million unfilled positions by 2020.

To help address this gap, Bevilacqua speaks at conferences aimed at attracting women and underrepresented minorities to pursue careers in information security. She mentors young women in the field and leads the Information Security Diversity and Pipeline Building Program at Facebook. Bevilacqua and her team visit with middle school, high school and college students to host “Capture the Flag” hacking contests to inspire the next generation of information security professionals.

“Facebook is a global company, and so it’s imperative it reflects the diversity of the people who use our technology and services especially when it comes to solving complex security problems. That includes geographical diversity, educational diversity as well as ethnic and gender diversity.”

Deena McKay

President of Black Tech Unplugged. Read all about her story here:

http://voyagechicago.com/interview/meet-deena-mckay-black-tech-unplugged-river-north/#comment-19439

Deena - It's wonderful to hear about YOUR story here! I'll share this on my Canisius webpage for others. Well done and keep up the inspiration. It's good to know good stories and inspired people who share their blessings.

Mark Draksic

Mark was just promoted to Manager, ERP Systems and Applications Support at Rich Products. Mark will have a staff of 12 and be in charge of SAP systems. Mark will assume this position in January 2009 after he finishes responsibilities in the UK in his role as an International IS staff member.

Vladimir Lukic

After working as a project manager for GIS Data in Croatia and managing International operations, Vlad completed his MBA at MIT in Cambridge, MA. He is a partner with the Boston Consulting Group and is working as a high level, strategic consultant.

Erin Cody
Erin is currently working on her Ph.D. in MIS (and her Law degree) at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is doing work on Intellectual Property and Legal Issues of the Internet. erincody@gmail.com

**Ryan Pieszak**

Ryan obtained a position at Ziphany in N Tonawanda, working as a technical specialist utilizing Cold Fusion. Ryan worked his way up to Director of IT at Ziphany, completed his MBA at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and has now moved into a high level management position at PointAndPay, Inc. in Winter Haven, Florida. (See ryanpieszak@yahoo.com and, http://www.pointandpay.com)

**Shawn Goss**

Shawn also obtained a position at Ziphany and is performing technical specialist duties, including work with Cold Fusion. He is working where Ryan left off. See http://www.ziphany.com/

**Jamel Perkins**

Jamel is the Director of Information Technology at Delaware North Companies in Buffalo, New York. This international, multi-million dollar firm depends on information technology for mission critical applications. Jamel is responsible for all of the IT planning and operations. His work has taken him to many foreign countries as he oversees operations. Prior to joining Delaware North Jamel was Director of IT for Buffalo Savings Bank.
Aaron Reuther

Aaron works at Premcom as a systems engineer. He installs VOIP phone systems and does a number of technical troubleshooting tasks. areuther@premcom.com

Robert Shanahan

Robert is a Network Analyst for Erie County Medical Center (ECMC), in Buffalo, NY. rshanaha@ecmc.com

Mike Shroeder

Mike is a web and SAP developer for MVP Network Consulting in Buffalo, New York. Previously Mike has worked in technical support and application (web) development at CNHI and Rosa’s Home Stores.

Steve Florko

Steve is Vice President and Chief Technology Officer for AdorableCharms.com. Steve is also Manager of European Navision Development at GameStop in Grapevine, Texas. Among his assorted duties for Gamestop, Steve oversees and acts as liaison to European software development teams. Steve recently emailed the IS department – “It’s great to see Canisius promoting the department as they developed my leadership skills and in a way, put me where I am today.”
Chris Grimaldi

Chris is Manager of the Information Technology department at Mueller Services. Visit www.mueller-inc.com

Michael Pawelek

Mike works as a Software Architect for the AIX Group in Buffalo, New York. Some of Mike’s accomplishments include the design, development and implementation of an Enterprise ETL tool which provided cost savings of over $500,000. Mike designed, developed and implemented an N-Tier Application framework using .NET (VB.Net/C#) technologies. Mike previously worked for VertaSource as Director of Development/Lead Software Developer. Mike’s long list of accomplishments and consulting activities would easily take up many pages, but I would like to add that Mike is one of the finest technical specialists the Information Systems department has graduated. Mike also runs the local chapter of the VB.Net User Group. You can reach him at pawelekm@yahoo.com

Laurie J. Eikemeyer

Through her studies at Canisius, Laurie discovered she liked working with databases. In 2001, Laurie left her employment at Canisius College (also a 1999 IS graduate) for an opportunity to work for M/E Engineering, P.C. as Database Systems Manager. In this role, she developed database solutions for project management, marketing and accounting. In 2007, Laurie was promoted to Business Applications Development Manager and
is currently working on a major software migration and implementation of a new accounting and marketing system.

Darren Foote

Darren Foote is an Analyst with M&T Bank in Buffalo, New York. Darren does a lot of technical work with XML code, data packets for updates of mainframes, including work with COBOL and IBM JCL.

The above list of graduates provides a sample of the types of jobs and careers that an Information Systems major at Canisius College might pursue.