

Promoting the advancement of women in computing professions



Association for Women in Computing

Twin City Connections

Next Meeting:

Business Partnering for Technologists

Presented by:
Patrick Finnegan
Market Director, IT
Dale Carnegie Minnesota

Thursday, February 16, 2012

- 5:30 PM Networking
- 6:00 PM Presentation

Location:
Byerly's Community Room
3777 Park Center Blvd
St. Louis Park 55416

Volume 3, Issue 5

January 2012

Make Time for Beauty and Wonder



Inside this issue:

Make Time for Beauty and Wonder	1
Tech Trends	2
In Transition	2
The Scoop on Jobs	2
A Little Humor	2
Meeting Recap	3
Social Media Watch	3
Recommended Reading	3

Are you the type of person who makes New Year's resolutions—you know: lose weight, get more sleep, take bubble baths, smell the roses?

According to author Anne Lamott *"there is nothing you can buy, achieve, own, or rent that can fill up that hunger inside for a sense of fulfillment and wonder. But the good news is that creative expression, whether that means writing, dancing, bird-watching, or cooking, can give a person almost everything that he or she has been searching for: enlivenment, peace, meaning, and the incalculable wealth of time spent quietly in beauty."*

(<http://bit.ly/98nQKV>)

That's the good news.

The bad news, says Lamott, is that you usually need to give something else up to achieve that sense of personal expression or fulfillment.

Work schedules don't always have a lot of give—especially the intractable deadlines we encounter in the IT world.

Still, she challenges people to decide what one thing they are willing to **not** do each day in order to have time to write that novel, take that pottery class, or attend the ballet.

Are you a news junkie? Lamott says that unless you are "married to the anchor" you don't need to watch every newscast.

Would you be willing to skip a trip to the gym in order to drop in at an art museum?

Can you imagine letting the housework slide so you can get that scrapbook finished before the kids graduate from college?

Lamott concludes *"I've heard it said that every day you need half an hour of quiet time for yourself, unless you're incredibly busy and stressed, in which case you need an hour. I promise you, it is there. Fight tooth and nail to find time, to make it. It is our true wealth, this moment, this hour, this day."*

How do you make time for beauty and wonder in your busy life?

Tech Trends

According to Mical Lev-Ram, writing for CNN, large software companies have been losing out to smaller players who can offer cloud Software as a Service (SaaS) to customers.

Lev-Ram reports Oracle, IBM, and SAP recently have gobbled up smaller companies with strengths in the cloud arena.

Lev-Ram thinks this is not

a bubble but the next step in the evolution of how businesses do business—starting with the PC, then the internet, and now the cloud.

“By end of 2012, we should have a better sense of which companies -- small and large -- will become the next big names in this new era of software. We should also have a better sense of whether paying a premium for cloud companies will have paid off.”

Cloud technologies, he says, will be 30 to 40 percent less expensive than legacy products, which is “a cost advantage IT departments cannot afford to ignore.”

That is why, for example, SAP purchased SuccessFactors for an astounding 3.4 billion, an amount significantly higher than the company’s share price.

Is your company moving IT to the cloud?

In Transition

Meg McGowan, our newest board member, knows a thing or two about being unemployed.

Until recently landing a consulting position, Meg was out of work for three years.

Meg has generously shared some of the valuable resources she used during this time.

- Minnesotaunemployed.com - A clearing house of resources for

unemployed persons in Minnesota. Meg even was able to find veterinary assistance on this site.

- Women in Transition - (<http://bit.ly/sV79yc>) This became her defacto office where she was able to use the computer and internet, send faxes, make copies, etc.

- Women Venture - (<http://bit.ly/12SOWa>) This group provides help with resumes and offers various classes.

- VistaPrint.com - Offers free business cards for the price of shipping.

- Indeed.com - compiles jobs from the various job boards in one place. Meg recommends you apply directly on the individual company’s websites, though.

What resources have you used to get you through a period of transition? We’d love to have you share them!

Here’s the Scoop on Jobs

The following companies have multiple technology jobs available as of Jan. 18, 2012.

The number of currently-open technology positions is in parenthesis and a link to each company’s career website (shortened using bit.ly) also is provided.

Ameriprise (35)
<http://bit.ly/fyxJBV>

Best Buy (47)
<http://bit.ly/hyjt31>

DataCard Group (16)
<http://bit.ly/bawP1S>

Medtronic (21)
<http://bit.ly/5zp4u9>

Moneygram Intl (15)
<http://bit.ly/vgZMUS>

Solution Design Grp (2)
<http://bit.ly/9P7XYW>

Target (125)
<http://bit.ly/cOWspl>

Wells Fargo (25)
<http://bit.ly/QMmbd>

A Little Humor

Found on Facebook:



The ten most annoying management terms of 2011

(from business insider <http://read.bi/sJe6M5>)

10. Internalize
9. Hi, I hope all is well
8. Weaponize price opacity (huh?)
7. Ideation
6. Stakeholder Community
5. Socialize
4. Complementary
3. Bandwidth
2. Geosourcing
1. Reaching out

Printing by:
Postal Dispatch
Business Center
www.postaldispatch.com



Promoting the advancement of women in computing professions

**2011-2012
Board of Directors**

President:
Diane Cone
(president@awctc.org)

Program Co-VPs:
Meg McGowen & Heike Peters
(programs@awctc.org)

Communications VP:
Marti Rollins
(communications@awctc.org)

Finance VP:
Katie Bedney
(treasurer@awctc.org)

Web VP:
Jane Sheedy
(webteam@awctc.org)

Membership VP:
Heike Peters
(membership@awctc.org)

National Representative:
Heike Peters
(nationalrep@awctc.org)

Editor: Mary Jo Koplos
Come Write Inn, Ltd
cwi-ltd@comcast.net
Suggestions and submissions welcome.



WWW.AWCTC.ORG



Twin Cities Association
of Women in Computing

AWCTC

Association for Women in Computing

Meeting Recap



The December social event was a great break from holiday hustle and bustle and provided a leisurely setting in which to get to know one another better.

Social Media Watch

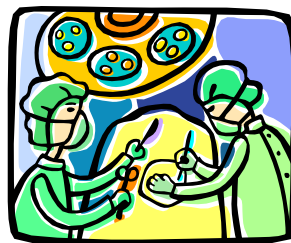
Believe it or not, if you need a transplant, the new place to find an organ is social media!

According to an Associated Press article, a Michigan man found a kidney donor on Facebook and a woman from Florida found one by advertising on Craig's List.

Damon Brown took a chance and posted his need for a kidney on Facebook and, before he knew it, he had 1,400 followers.

But, more importantly, he found a willing kidney donor in the person of Jacqueline Ryall.

When asked, Ryall said, "my life is in a good place. I've been given lots and it's my responsibility to give back."



Ryall, who was a family acquaintance but not necessarily, until now, a friend, also stepped up for Brown's kids saying, "He's a good guy and he's got kids."

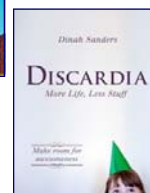
What's even more amazing is that Brown had four potential donors who came forward to be tested.

A spokesperson from the United Network for Organ Sharing says they are seeing an increasing number of people finding organs on social media sites.

<http://bit.ly/vmICfi>

Recommended Reading

Looking for some new year's resolution reading? **The Happiness Project** by Gretchen Rubin and **Discardia** by Dinah Sanders might be a place to start.



Rubin set about to test happiness theories in a quest for her own and provides some ideas and insights that may be useful.

The Discardia subtitle [More Life, Less Stuff] pretty much says it all.

According to Sanders, Discardia "helps you carve away the nonsense of physical objects, habits, or emotional baggage, and uncover what brings you joy."