



# Career Week 2008

## *Something for Everyone!*

### Technical Careers

The Marquette University Career Services Center strives to assist all students and alumni in discerning, developing, and pursuing meaningful traditional and non-traditional career paths.

Marquette university | Career Services Center | [www.marquette.edu/csc](http://www.marquette.edu/csc) | 414.288.7423 | [career.services@marquette.edu](mailto:career.services@marquette.edu)

Thank you to our panelists and their respective employing organizations.

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#### Panelists

**Victoria Alia**  
**Business Team Leader, NEMA Components**  
**Rockwell Automation**  
**Milwaukee, WI**  
**[vaalia@ra.rockwell.com](mailto:vaalia@ra.rockwell.com)**

Biography:

"I graduated from Marquette University's College of Engineering in May, 1992, with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering.

Immediately upon graduation, I joined Honeywell's Home & Building Control Division in Arlington Heights, IL as a manufacturing engineer. My responsibilities included managing all the aspects of a mature manufacturing line, as well as supervising a union workforce, which was a challenging, yet wonderful, opportunity. This enjoyable work experience, as well as my nomination for a company-wide leadership program, helped me identify my goals for the future. I knew that I aspired to future management and leadership positions, so I immediately enrolled in a MBA program and graduated in 1997.

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After 3 1/2 years at Honeywell, I left to pursue other career opportunities with Rockwell Automation. This was the hardest decision of my life. I was on the “fast track” at Honeywell and questioned whether another company would be able to offer similar opportunities.

I have now been with Rockwell Automation for 13 years. Throughout that time, I have had many exciting roles, for which I feel very fortunate. These roles each provided new challenges, allowing me to continue developing professionally. I have worked on new product development projects, designed custom panels, managed a team of engineers and managed a global product line.

My biggest career challenge thus far was my assignment as the Project Manager for a team that would implement a new business system. The most challenging aspect was that I had no prior experience with IT system implementations and my entire cross-functional team had a dotted-line relationship to me---which meant influencing skills were absolutely critical. Although it was an incredible challenge, I learned so much. This project was a great success for all involved - all deliverables were on time and substantially under budget.

Most recently, my responsibilities have included teaming with our senior management to develop business strategies for the company as a whole, and a few months ago I accepted a position leading a business. Rockwell Automation has given me endless opportunities, increasing my responsibility with each new position and allowing me to grow into a better employee and leader.”

**Edward Leonard**

**Database Administrator – Business Intelligence IT Services**

**Marquette University**

**Milwaukee, WI**

**edward.leonard@mu.edu**

Biography:

“I started as an Accounting major in the College of Business Administration in 1995. Shortly after taking major classes, I moved my major to Information Technology.

Although I did an internship, it was not one concentrated in IT. My last summer job entailed re-writing a program at a car dealership.

I began interviewing in the fall semester of senior year and would have a job offer by Christmas break. I probably had 10 first interviews, three second and once offer. Most companies were consulting firms from big to small and one large corporation. I got the offer from the corporation, Ameritech (now AT&T) to be a COBOL programmer.

After a semester of not worrying about finding a job, I began work. As months went on, I was given more challenging assignments and responsibilities. In the first two years, I coded many programs and began to provide design documents for other coding projects.

After about two years, a rare opportunity opened up in another department due to a mass retirement. This job was to design the high-level system design. This was a great opportunity to learn about the big

picture and pick up project manager skills. Within two years, I realized it was not the best career move.

I ended up back in the programming area but on a different team than before. My biggest career challenge was going back to where I started after moving to a job I really didn't enjoy. The programming work dealt with mass queries or updates, which were handled entirely through medium sized COBOL programs.

In the spring of 2005, I interviewed here at Marquette University for a position within University Advancement. I was charged with reporting, managing data and other projects within University Advancement. I had the chance to work with other departments of the university from Athletics to IT Services and Special Events. I also got the chance to work extensively with outside vendors.

Only last summer did a new opportunity present itself. As part of a UA database conversion project, I got to interview for my current position that was created as the project went on. Currently, I am a Database Administrator and Business Intelligence Developer for the new data warehouse. This move has definitely been my biggest career success."

**Rajesh Ramachandran**

**Programmer Analyst Specialist**

**Metavante**

**Milwaukee, WI**

**rajesh\_ramachand@hotmail.com**

Biography:

"A science student with MBA in MIS from Marquette University. I was a lecturer in physics and Comp science for high school students in India before coming to USA in 1998. After graduation I joined Metavante and in the last 8 years have progressed to current position. I work mainly in mainframe batch technologies dealing with data movement within and into Metavante electronic banking applications.

The greatest success so far is the progress to positions of increasing responsibility. In addition to programming responsibilities I am also a team lead having a direct report as well as technical lead providing consulting expertise for internet banking data conversions. My greatest challenge yet is to move into a technical management position."

**Linda Sodemann**

**Principal Representative**

**We Energies**

**Milwaukee, WI**

**linda.sodemann@we-energies.com**

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Biography:

Linda Sodemann is a Local Affairs principal representative for We Energies. In her role as principal representative she works to achieve community and local governmental support for corporate initiatives by maintaining long-term relationships with key decision makers, monitoring the concerns of the community and major leadership and creating a positive image for the company. Sodemann joined the company in 1984 as planning engineer. Subsequently, she was appointed customer service engineer in 1987. She has served as principal representative since 2000. Sodemann earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Marquette University. She is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Wisconsin.