

# Heart + Body + Soul ... the End

While nearly two-thirds of your College's incoming freshmen hail from hometowns within a 100-mile radius of campus, many move miles beyond that after graduation to grow their careers.

These journeys often end in the most dynamic product and process design and development environments in the nation.

Perhaps the most famous is Silicon Valley, California, the hotbed for computer and communications engineering where several hundred College alumni continue to make an impact on our country's leadership position in these technologies.

Speak to those seeding the MU spirit from San Francisco to San Jose, and you'll find a recurring theme – that their Marquette experience provided a solid foundation for their success.



**Paul and Pam Costa**, husband and wife who met while pursuing their engineering degrees at Marquette, now work for Apple Computer in Cupertino, California. Paul (BS – Electrical Engineering, '99) designs iMacs; Pam (BS – Biomedical

Engineering, '98) has evolved from her engineering roots into a very promising career in finance.

Each credits Marquette with providing the educational experience to stand out in even the most competitive markets.

“Marquette in general has a real good philosophy when it comes to education,” said Pam. “In engineering, you're going to get a lot of the critical-thinking skills, the problem-solving skills, and that's just key in any job you do.

“But in addition to that, with an engineering degree at Marquette, you take philosophy classes, you take religion classes, you learn about the Jesuit philosophy of service.

I think that creates a pretty unique asset as you head out into the workforce.”

Paul looked over at his wife nodding in agreement. “The Jesuit presence at Marquette is undeniable,” he said.

Paul believes it gave him the perspective and broad base he needed to succeed in his first love – designing computers – but also, he mused, in whatever else he may choose to pursue going forward.

“Your job scope graduating (from Marquette) with an engineering degree is almost endless. You can go into engineering, you can go into education, you can go to law school. Medical school. I can't think of anything you couldn't do.”

#### **Naresh Batra**



(MS – Electrical Engineering, '72), has launched several highly successful start-ups and IPOs in the Valley, currently serving as Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Intellex, a San Jose company

specializing in Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology primarily used for tracking products in transit. He sees it as the next wave in time- and cost-effective shipping and handling.

Reflecting on Marquette, he said his experience on campus quietly – but indelibly – embedded in him the “values” of being different.

“You know, when you are young and going to school, sometimes you don't think about how important some of these values are – team spirit, working to get along with the fellow student, the ethics and skills you will need to prepare for your life,” said Batra.

“These are some of the very very critical things that really make you successful.”

# Product is Successful Alumni!



**Terry McCallum**  
(BS – Mechanical Engineering, '97), is a Vice President for SurfaceInk, an innovative San Jose design house that works with computer OEMs to develop, among other things,

solutions for computer and computer accessory enclosures.

Terry credits Marquette with providing a nurturing environment for personal growth, especially how to work, and succeed, with other people.

“Engineering is not always easy,” said McCallum. “There’s a lot of lab work and a lot of deadlines, a lot of collaboration with people. And you don’t necessarily get to choose your lab mates. So you have to learn to work with what you have.

“(Marquette) gives you a sense of safety – the people around you typically have some faith. They have a certain way that they live their life. And when you interact with those people you feel very comfortable. You can grow through them. And it’s not just a group of people with the same beliefs ... it definitely strengthens you to do whatever you want.”

Case in point:



**Joshua Roden** (BS – Civil and Environmental Engineering, '00). Roden chose to build on his engineering experience at Marquette to rise quickly within the managerial ranks for

one of the nation’s largest real estate development companies, Meritage Corporation, which maintains west coast operations in Concord, California.

“Engineering set me up for my career by giving me my problem-solving base,” he said. “In a development

company you have to know how to solve problems. When something comes up – and it always does – how do you solve it? How do you move on, how do you get the project to a completed state under budget and on time?

“The program at Marquette provided a wide range of applications where you touch on all the facets of engineering – mechanical issues, electrical, civil, even ergonomic aspects through biomedical engineering. It creates a mind bank that can help you solve problems in the future.”



**Chris Rittler** (BS – Mechanical Engineering, '86) is the Business Development Manager for Tropos Networks of Sunnyvale, California, one of the fastest growing wireless communications

company’s in the nation.

“I was brought into Tropos as the first executive there, to build the company pretty much from scratch,” he said. “My responsibilities have evolved from a handful of people to where I now work with big partners that might want to use our equipment as part of their solution.”

Citing a just-forged relationship with Motorola, he said “we’re now 105 people with 300 customers in 30 countries – so it’s going. We’ve been at it for five years, and really now have transitioned from startup to small business.”

The reason for his success? A solid educational foundation – including Marquette.

“I went to a Jesuit high school – went through Catholic education my whole life,” he said. “I just put a premium on the Jesuits. I think the Jesuits are good people and they create a good environment.

“If high tech is where you want to end up, or even if you’re interested in business or marketing, getting a strong engineering degree from a school like Marquette is very important.”



**John LaDisa** earned three Biomedical Engineering degrees from Marquette (BS – '00; MS – '01; Ph.D. – '04) and is now a Postdoctoral Scholar at Stanford University involved with cardiovascular biomechanics.

“There’s a service element in engineering that is very attractive to me,” he said. “At the end of the day you’re making products that someone is going to use. I’m involved with something bigger than myself.”

He credits Marquette with “uniquely” enabling the windows of opportunity he needed to achieve his goals.

“The thing that I liked about Marquette, specifically Marquette’s engineering program,” he said, pausing for emphasis, “is that nobody ever told me I couldn’t do

something. When I had an idea – regardless of how ridiculous it sounded – nobody said ‘you know, we haven’t done that before so I do not think you are going to be able to do that.’

“It was always ‘that’s an interesting idea – here are some questions I have as an administrator.’ But no one said that I couldn’t do it.

“(On campus) there’s really an excellent opportunity to work within the confines of what’s established, but also to create things for yourself. I think that’s something that’s unique to Marquette.”

Success in Silicon Valley? For these and dozens upon dozens of other alumni – just ask. They’ll tell you the basis for their success among the toughest competition is the unique broad-based engineering education – and Jesuit learning tradition – of Marquette.

But then, you knew that. •

## Get back in touch!

Marquette’s Alumni Relations office reports that just over 22,000 alumni have registered for MU Connect, a free online community where Marquette alumni may network, find old friends, and make new connections. Of these, more than 3,200 are COE graduates!

Why not get back in touch at [www.marquette.edu/alumni](http://www.marquette.edu/alumni). It’s fast, easy, and the next best thing to being back on campus!

While at the site, you’ll find two potentially very helpful services ... and yet another way to make a difference.

- While its primary mission is to serve current students, Marquette’s *Career Services Center* also assists alumni with resources ranging from employment opportunities to career transition assistance including access to job postings, a resume referral program, networking contacts, resume writing, and career advising.
- Moreover, new alumni job hunting or waiting for benefits to kick in at a new position might benefit from *GradMed* – which offers discounted temporary health insurance.
- There’s also the opportunity to sign up as a volunteer serving the *Career Alumni Network*, where MU engineering students can engage with you for career and job search advice.

Feel like surfing some more? Try [www.eng.mu.edu](http://www.eng.mu.edu), your College-specific website. Click on the portal to the COE alumni subsite at the right-hand bottom of the page. Then check out the past issues of your College’s electronic newsletter, *Ahoy! Engineers*, where you’ll find ways to get involved ranging from refocusing our youth on technology, to entrepreneurial exchanges, to how to connect your business to the College’s excellent co-op program. All great avenues to pursue the spirit of being Marquette!



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