

## A day in the life of Meaghan Bouchoux

Meaghan, a 2000 JMU Computer Information Systems graduate, is about to make a presentation to the chief technical officer of a company with \$75 billion in annual revenue. She has spent the last several weeks working with teammates to review website statistics, growth trends, capacity models, and network usage to determine if the current infrastructure is sufficient to support the company's website during its busiest season. She has forecasted customer growth over the next several years and the subsequent impact of that growth on the network architecture. The research conclusively proves that new hardware is in fact necessary and the company will actually exhaust its resources sooner than previously thought. As a result, the website's 160 million annual visitors will not experience an interruption of service. She walks into the meeting with a confident smile.

**Today's IT professional is a business partner.**



### CIS Program Highlights

- **Undergraduate Computer Information Systems (CIS) Program** featured in TechRepublic's Special Report listing the Top 10 "can't miss" undergraduate IT programs in the United States (2008).
- A **highly dedicated and well-qualified faculty** who believe in excellence and innovation in teaching, scholarship and service.
- **Outstanding placement:** CIS graduates had a median starting salary of \$60,000 in 2009. Over 35 firms actively recruiting CIS students on-campus in 2009.
- **College of Business:** ranked 16th nationally among public universities; Business Week Ranking of Undergraduate Programs (2009).
- **James Madison University:** ranked #1 among public master's level universities in the South by *U.S. News & World Report* (2009).
- Loyal network of **over 3,200 CIS alumni** working in the IT industry throughout the world.
- **Accreditation:** program in CIS is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET.

If you are interested in learning more about the CIS program at James Madison University please visit our website <http://www.jmu.edu/cis> or contact Dr. Rick Mathieu at [mathierg@jmu.edu](mailto:mathierg@jmu.edu) or by phone at (540) 568-3064

Picture yourself studying  
**Computer Information Systems**



.... and embarking on a successful career path!



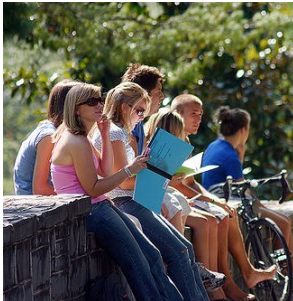
## Studying Computer Information Systems

Technology has connected people in ways that were previously unimagined, raising the possibilities to a new level. Here are a few of the exciting things going on within the field today:

- IT professionals will need to possess expertise in multiple domains. Technical aptitude alone will no longer be enough. IT professionals must prove they can understand business realities – industry, core processes, customer bases, regulatory environments and culture.

- Forecasts by firms such as Gartner and Forrester show that a very small portion of IT jobs

are being outsourced overseas, and the jobs that remain are all the more numerous, interesting, and meaningful than ever before.



- “A CIS degree from JMU provides an excellent balance of technology and business – critical skills today in a world where US technical skills are under-represented and in demand! The job and career possibilities are endless.” Susie Bonvouloir, Director of HR, CGI, JMU CIS '81,

## Picture Yourself in the Heart of an Organization!

- IT professionals interact with and contribute to every level of an organization’s structure—making you an invaluable asset.
- IT professionals translate information needs into technology needs. You will become a critical link in achieving important organizational goals.
- The “new CIS professional” is a people-person but can also “talk-technology,” solving meaningful organizational problems.



## Examples of the New CIS Professional

**Business Analyst**—investigates business systems, identifies options for improving these systems, and bridges the needs of the business with the use of IT.



Philip, a business analyst, explains technological capabilities to the product managers.

**Consultant**— advises organizations on how best to use information technology to meet their business objectives.

**Project Manager**— facilitates successful completion of IT projects.

**Security Analyst**—determines security weaknesses and makes recommendations to tighten them up.

**IT Advisor** —helps clients manage their technology risks to help them attain their strategic and financial goals.

## Why Study CIS?

- Technology touches all of us. It is changing constantly, and your skills and knowledge will be in constant demand.
- You can make a difference for organizations and people worldwide.
- You will learn the business skills necessary to impact the financial and strategic dimensions of information systems.
- You can apply IT knowledge to energize a related area, web marketing, techno-finance or global business services.
- You can structure your career to fit your needs—work alone, with other individuals or with teams. Work with top executives, managers and operational individuals. Work for yourself, a small business or a multinational firm. The possibilities are endless.

“If you choose the CIS program at James Madison University, you are making an investment that will yield 'higher than average' returns in your career. Simply put, there just aren't enough individuals who understand both the technology and business fundamentals to meet the demand of the global market.”

Chris Tignor, VP & CISO, Capital One, JMU CIS '92