

CTI alum Michael T. Bailey (M.S. '04) incorporated his own software development firm in 2003, before he even graduated from DePaul. Now he wants to grow Metech Designs LLC beyond the virtual partnerships he's used to develop e-commerce applications for small- to mid-size businesses. But the challenges are daunting.

"I am in the process of developing an advisory team, securing financial opportunities for the company, and attracting more employees," Bailey says.

Looking to learn from entrepreneurs who have gone before, Bailey joined DePaul's e club. Club activities have put him in touch with other business owners, DePaul students interested in entrepreneurship and managers and financiers experienced in building firms. "I would like to network and build relationships with other entrepreneurs within the e club," he says.

Founded in the summer of 2005 as a way to encourage entrepreneurship in technical fields, e club now has more than 100 members, says CTI Associate Professor Daniel Mittleman, the club's faculty sponsor. They include a mix of undergraduate and graduate students, recent alumni seeking advice and guidance, and older alumni looking to give back to the community.

e club sponsors a variety of networking events including seminars with established entrepreneurs and investors and workshops for developing business concepts and plans.

One last year featured John Dilenschneider (M.S. '92), a CTI alumnus and serial entrepreneur, who has successfully launched and sold seven companies. The club also sponsors teams to compete in the DePaul New Venture Entrepreneurship Challenge, a \$25,000 business plan competition.

Last year an e club team progressed to the third level in the competition, and this year the club hopes to put together more than one team, says sophomore Krassi A. Hristova, e club's president and CEO.

'e' club boosts entrepreneurship in information technology

Members network, develop business plans and swap venture capital tips

The club also will sponsor more seminars on starting a business, including what kinds of regulations tech businesses must comply with, how to attract investors and how to take a company public, Hristova says. **"People were very interested to hear what our guests said last year. I am very passionate about this, and it is great to see that people who are juggling full-time jobs and school and sometimes even a family take time to participate. It shows how much we are bringing to their lives."**

For Anthony Chan (B.S. '04, M.S. '06), who graduated this spring, the contacts he made at e club have helped establish him in his first job as a consultant for PriceWaterhouseCoopers. "I came in with a nice network of lawyers, entrepreneurs and faculty to draw on and some ideas to bring to the table. It's a nice address book, and it helps me because I am still learning things."

Chan continues volunteering with e club as a mentor for students and a facilitator for networking and deals. "I have brought some students and some alumni to the table with JPMorgan Chase, the people who have the money and the know-how and the experience to get things off the ground."

While many e club members have experience running small businesses, most of these have been restaurants or other retail or service businesses, Chan says. "They have ideas, but they need help setting up financing and finding experienced management."

The e club helps bring the people with the ideas together with the people who can execute over the long term."

'e'



John Fisher (M.S. '89) (left), chair of CTI's Leadership Council and former CIO of communications group Smith Bucklin, joins students, alumni and others for an 'e' presentation sponsored by 37signals featuring Jason Fried, Venture Voice 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year, and David Heinemeier Hansson, Google's 2005 Hacker of the Year.