

logical requirements of the system into the capabilities of the computer machinery or "hardware". They also prepare specifications for programmers to follow and work with them to "debug" or eliminate errors from the system.

Most systems analysts work in urban areas for manufacturing firms, banks, insurance companies, and data processing service organizations. In addition, large numbers work for wholesale and retail businesses and for government agencies.

There is no universally accepted way of preparing for a job as a systems analyst. However, college graduates generally are sought for these jobs, and for some of the more complex jobs, persons with graduate degrees are preferred. Employers usually want analysts with a background in accounting, business management, or economics for work in a business environment; while a background in the physical sciences, mathematics, or engineering is preferred for work in scientifically oriented organizations.

Prior work experience is important. Nearly half of all persons entering this field have been transferred from other occupations, especially from computer programmers. Although most system analysts work independently, they sometimes work in teams on large projects. They must be able to communicate effectively with technical personnel such as programmers as well as with clients who have no computer background.

An indication of experience and professional competence is the Certificate in Data Processing (CDP). This designation is conferred by the Institute for Certification of Computer Professionals upon candidates who have completed 5 years' experience and passed a five-part examination.

The outlook for graduates of computer-related curriculum should be excellent. College graduates who have had courses in computer programming, systems analysis, and other data processing areas should also find many opportunities.

This article has been based on information from the *OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK, 1978-1979 Edition*; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1978.

I got my job through Kappa "Networking"

Mary Scott Stewart Welch, past chapter president BA - Illinois, is the author of *NETWORKING: The Great New Way for Women to Get Ahead* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, \$9.95, published February 25, 1980). It tells how working women are getting together, outside the so-called "old boys' network," to trade information, advice, referrals and moral support as they pursue their careers. Excerpts have been appearing in *Glamour*, *Working Woman*, *MS.* and *Vogue*, reviews in *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, *The Executive Female*, *Savvy*, *Mademoiselle* and various newspapers. Scotty is currently traveling across the country, speaking to many of the women's network groups that she interviewed during her research for the book and appearing on radio and TV shows.

"Strange though it seems," Scotty writes *The Key*, "I never thought of Kappa as being part of my network, nor of myself as part of a network for other career-minded Kappas. The explanation is fairly simple — we might even say historical: when I graduated from College, in 1940, I was one of very, very few in my class who were committed to lifelong careers, regardless of marriage and motherhood. While my husband and I were raising our four children, I was the "odd" mother who worked (and, of course, as Betty Friedan was to point out, felt guilty about wanting to).

"Yet I look back, I realize that I got my first really good job through a Kappa, and by the very process of networking that I describe in my book. Jane Chandler, now Smythe, a junior transfer in my pledge class, knew Mary Jane Shevelson at Stevens College; Mary Jane was married to Harris Shevelson, then promotion manager of *Esquire-Coronet* in Chicago. Jane told me Harris was looking for an assistant. I was hired, became newsstand promotion manager when Harris moved on to become editor of *Coronet*, and when we both landed in New York, years later, I became his associate editor on *Pageant*. 'Old boy' or not, he was my mentor continuing even after I moved on to *Look Magazine* and to free lance writing until his unfortunate death in an air crash. And — it all began with Kappa and networking!"

Scotty's previous books have been *The Family Wilderness*, *The Seventeen Guide to Travel*, *Esquire's What Every Young Man Should Know*, and several cookbooks, but in recent years her free lance writing has focussed on women's jobs, her articles appearing in *Redbook*, *McCall's*, *Glamour*, *MS.*, *Working Mother*, *Ladies Home Journal* and others.

She is a member of the advisory board of NOW in New York City, and a founding member of the Friends of NOW-NYC. She's listed in *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who in the East*, *International Biography*, the *Working Press and Community Leaders of the U.S.* She lives in Manhattan with husband Barrett Welch, with now and then visits from their grown "children" — "None of them Kappas, I'm sorry to say: the three women went to Swarthmore, Reed, and Evergreen where fraternities are not what they were at Illinois."

*The Great New Way
for Women to Get Ahead*
Networking
by Mary Scott Welch

Author Mary Scott Welch, BA—Illinois, (photo by Ben Kocivar)

