



Building professionalism in project management.®

**Project Management Institute  
Michigan Capital Area Chapter**

# MAXIMUM FLOAT

## Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter

Volume VII, Issue 6

March 2006

[www.pmi-mcac.org](http://www.pmi-mcac.org)

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### **Message from the President**

**Stanley Samuel, MBA, PMP**

Dear Members & Friends,

Welcome to the March 2006 edition of the "Maximum Float". I hope our newsletters are helping you know more about our Project Management activities in the Mid-Michigan area.

Recently, our Board worked during two weekends with the PMI's Regional Mentor, Neil Goldman, to re-evaluate and re-create a Strategic Plan for the Michigan Capital Area Chapter. We had an awesome time performing SWOT Analysis, identifying short term and long term goals, and are currently developing an implementation plan. During these meetings we also got the opportunity to re-evaluate the Michigan Capital Area Chapter's (MCAC) **Vision** and **Mission**. We will be sharing this information with you, when it is finalized.

*See President, continued on page 2*

### **March Program Meeting Announcement**

**March 21, 2006**

Bonus Program at 5:15 PM

Topic: Lansing Business Monthly Brainstorming Session

Program Meeting at 6:00 PM

Featuring

Speaker: Earl Joki, EDS

Topic: EDS' Implementation and Operation of Program Offices

Go to : <http://www.pmi-mcac.org/>

And register using the Monthly Program Meeting Link

### **Register Now for Professional Development Day!**

**Early-Bird Rate: Members \$99/Non-Members \$125**

**(Early-Bird Deadline is March 24, 2006)**

<http://www.pmi-mcac.org/>

### **Inside this Edition**

Message from the President .....	1-2
Vice Presidents Corners .....	2-5
Pictures from the February Meeting. . . . .	6
Events Schedule .....	7

**President, continued from page 1**

Our Chapter is currently entering into an exciting phase, where you will be shortly seeing the execution of one of our biggest project endeavors of the year; Professional Development Day. This year we are expecting a large turnout. We have some great speakers for you to enhance your Project Management and Leadership skills. If you have not registered, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible, the early bird discounts will soon expire.

As part of our Strategic Initiatives, we are planning to work with the Greater Lansing Business Monthly for publishing multiple articles related to, "How Project Management has helped the Local Business". During this month's bonus meeting on March 21, we are planning to have a brainstorming session for selecting topics for a series of articles for the Journal. So it would be awesome, if you can join us to discuss ideas that you may have to enhance the profession of project management in our community. Our Communication team shall confirm the details of this activity through listserv. In closure, I would like to say thanks to all of you for working with the Michigan Capital Area Chapter. Your membership, your attendance in the Program Events and your volunteerism is highly appreciated. Without you we would not exist. I look forward to seeing you on March 21, 2006 at the Clarion.

**Cheers!!!!**

**Stanley Samuel**

**Vice President – Programs**

**John LeTourneau, PMP**

Hello everyone!

Our February presentation was an interesting topic, Tim Webster, Manager of Engineering, Barton Malow Construction Company, presented on the scheduling and construction of the 2005 Spartan Stadium Renovation. Tim showed us how they continued the construction schedule of the stadium while accommodating the 2004 football season. The challenge impacted the sequencing and scheduling of the work.

Our Bonus Topic for February was "Test Taking Tips and Tricks" with Brian Jennings. As expected, Brian did another great job with this material

We've had a little switch up for March, Earl Joki is going to present on "EDS' Implementation and Operation of Program Offices." We've moved this presentation ahead from the May timeframe because of some scheduling issues. Earl is going to discuss EDS' capability related to implementation and operation of program offices. EDS has developed an architecture that allows them to implement a Leveraged PMO model capable of supporting management and oversight at the Enterprise, Program, or Project levels. They are implementing this common approach globally.

For our bonus topic in March, we have been having some interactions with the Lansing Business Monthly about several articles related to PMI and our local usage of project management. Please join us with your ideas and experiences as we brainstorm possible topics of interest for the articles.

We have PDD in April, if you haven't signed up yet, please hurry and do so!

And to wrap up our program year in May, Kevin Meyer of Meridian entertainment will be joining us to present the Lansing "Common Ground" event.

**Vice-President – Programs, continued on pg 3**

## ***Vice-President – Programs, continued from pg 2***

We also have some great programs scheduled to start off the new program year in September with Roman Lazuk presenting on the General Motors plant development process. In October we have Mark Kozak-Holland in to talk about his book "Titanic Lessons for IT Projects" which discusses the Titanic's track-record of four years in development (1909-1912) and 4 days in operation.

We'll see you soon at the next MCAC event!

## ***Vice President – Logistics***

**Pam Sawatzki, PMP**

Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone! I hope you have a wonderful day...and enjoy a little "wearing of the green" on Friday, March 17th. I was glad to see so many people at last dinner meeting at the Clarion. We had a good turn out for the bonus program with Brian Jennings and all the MSU fans enjoyed the main speaker as he talked about some of the obstacles involved in MSU Stadium upgrades.

Registration is now open for the March 21, 2006 dinner meeting. We did have a change in the programming and we are now having Earl Joki from EDS as our featured speaker. John LeTourneau has been working with our original speaker and we hope to have him rescheduled for a future presentation. Hope to see you on the 21st!

## ***Vice President – Membership***

**Dan Buonodono, PMP**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new chapter members: Jeffery P Burton (Custom Business Solutions, Inc.); Teresa R Harris (Sircon Corporation); Melisa S Higgins (The Quest Group); and Karthikeyan Narayanan (Symbiosis International).

Our Chapter currently has 214 members, including 151 PMPs. That's up from 173 and 102 respectively from April of 2005!

I look forward to seeing you all at our next program meeting!

## ***Vice President -- Professional Development***

**Amy J. Piper, Ph.D., PMP**

It's March already and next month is the fourth Michigan Capital Area Chapter Professional Development Day. It will be on Wednesday, April 19, 2005 at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing. Please note that it is a Wednesday, as that is different than most of our events. The theme this year is Project Management: Moving to the Next Level! Register now at [www.pmi-mcac.org](http://www.pmi-mcac.org).

I've told you about the four plenary sessions in previous months, let me tell you about the two break out sessions. In the morning break out sessions you will choose between "Negotiation for Project Managers" by Don Conlon, Ph.D. or "Why Leaders Fail" by Tom Mattus. Negotiation for Project Managers will provide you with an understanding of basic negotiations skills; so that you can negotiate more effectively with all project stakeholders. Don Conlon, Ph.D. is the Chairperson and Eli Broad Professor of Management at Michigan State University.

## ***Vice-President - Professional Development, continued on pg 4***

***Vice-President - Professional Development, continued from pg 3***

“Why Leaders Fail” by Tom Mattus delves into the role of a leader and how their actions cannot only fail an initiative, but their interpersonal relationships as well. Tom Mattus is the President of Successful Strategies International, Inc. (SSI).

In the afternoon, we have David Brandon, PMP of the Government SIG on “Why Government Projects are Different” or Steve Wilson, PMP “Leadership Lessons from the Orchestra -Leaders... These Things We Must Do”.

David Brandon, PMP of the Government SIG on “Why Government Projects are Different”. David Brandon states that there are four environmental factors that are different in the public sector than in the private sector. His presentation provides insight into how to deal with these issues as they are faced on Government projects.

Steve Wilson, PMP “Leadership Lessons from the Orchestra -Leaders... These Things We Must Do”. I’ve seen a version of Steve’s presentation and invited him to Professional Development Day so that you will walk away with four high-impact strategies that you can apply immediately to leading your project.

This PDD could be the best one we’ve offered yet! The cost at early registration for Michigan PMI chapter members is only **\$99**. That’s six PDUs for only \$99 or \$16.50 per PDU. Professional Development Day is a great value! If you have questions, contact me at [amy.piper@eds.com](mailto:amy.piper@eds.com). I’d be happy to answer any questions you have. See you there!

Please submit newsletter articles / information / advertising to [publicity@pmi-mcac.org](mailto:publicity@pmi-mcac.org) before the first of each month to be considered for that month's publication.

For additional information, please visit our website at <http://www.pmi-mcac.org>

**Don't Miss Out on Savings!****Register now for the Professional Development Day****April 19, 2006****Radisson Hotel, Lansing, MI****Early-Bird Rate: Members \$99/Non-Members \$125****(Early-Bird Deadline is March 24, 2006)**<http://www.pmi-mcac.org/>

**Vice President -- Finance**

Karl Meier

**Michigan Capital Area Chapter PMI  
Balance Sheet  
As of February 28, 2006**

Assets		
Current Assets – Checking/Savings		\$19,179.29
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$19,179.29</b>
Liabilities & Equity		
Liabilities		\$0
Equity		
Retained Earnings		\$18,530.98
Net Income		\$648.31
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$19,179.29</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>		<b><u>\$19,179.29</u></b>

**MAXIMUM FLOAT***Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter*

**Published Monthly prior to  
Chapter Meetings**

Charlie Kidd	Managing Editor
Dan Buonodono	Contributor
Pam Sawatzki	Contributor
John LeTourneau	Contributor
Karl Meier	Contributor
Amy Piper	Contributor
Stanley Samuel	Contributor
Judy Walsh	Contributor

**Publicity@pmi-mcac.org**

**Michigan Capital Area PMI Chapter Mission**

The Michigan Capital Area Chapter (MCAC) is established to provide a professional forum dedicated to promoting project management excellence by:

- Increased value of project management profession by encouraging the development of Project Management Professionals (PMPs)
- Promoting project management as a critical function in organizations
- Ensuring project management is recognized as a profession.
- Having MCAC recognized as experts in project management area locally.
- Providing project management education and training.

**Michigan Capital Area PMI Chapter Vision**

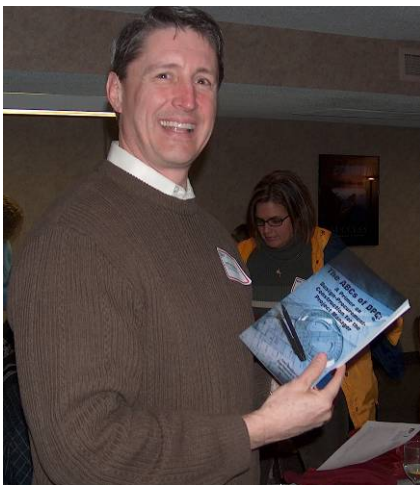
The Michigan Capital Area Chapter (MCAC) is the professional organization of choice for all project management professionals in the Mid-Michigan area. MCAC will strive to create an environment that enhances the profession of project management, such that project management will be recognized within organizations as a critical functional area.



## Photos from Our February 2006 Meeting

### MSU Stadium Expansion

Tim Webster spoke about the MSU Stadium Expansion project which was completed last year. This presentation was about the scheduling and construction of the 2005 Spartan Stadium Renovation. The prime obstacle to construction was the need to accommodate the 2004 football season during the construction schedule. This challenge impacted the sequencing and scheduling of the work. His presentation included pictures detailing the demolition and reconstruction.



### February Dinner Meeting Prize Winner

Jeff Botkin was the February Dinner meeting prize drawing winner. He won the Book: *The ABC's of DPC, a Primer on Design – Procurement – Construction for the Project Manager*.

Jeff works for Delta Dental, and has been a member of the MCAC for 3 years. He resides in East Lansing and is currently working on a project to convert mainframe legacy systems to open system architecture. Congratulations Jeff and happy reading.

### Test Taking Tips & Tricks

Brian Jennings' bonus presentation focused on techniques for taking tests. His lecture was not limited to the PMP Certification test, but was a general discussion on methods for increasing your odds of passing any test.

Brian gave advice on planning ahead for all aspects of the test, and explained how preparation beforehand can decrease stress. He also presented many tips for increasing the odds of selecting the right answer, even when you aren't sure. Brian also talked about many other aspects of test-taking that most of us don't think about. A copy of Brian's presentation can be found on the MCAC website at [www.pmi-mcac.org](http://www.pmi-mcac.org).





## **Events Schedule**

**March 21, 2006** – “EDS’ Implementation and Operation of Program Offices”

Speaker: Earl Joki

**April 19, 2006** – Professional Development Day

**May 16, 2006** – Planning and Executing Lansing’s Common Ground

Speaker: Kevin Meyer

**August 4, 2006** – 7:05 PM – Lansing Lugnuts Baseball Game -- MCAC-PMI Night

Tickets for the game are \$8.00 per person. Seating is limited. Contact Dean Feldpausch at (517) 373-9792 for additional information.

**September 2006** -- General Motors Plant Development Process

Speaker: Roman Lazuk

**October 2006** -- "Titanic Lessons for IT Projects"

Speaker: Mark Kozak-Holland

For the 2006 program year, the MCAC Chapter Program Meeting will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 3600 Dunckel Drive, Lansing, MI 48910

MCAC Chapter Program Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May, excluding December. Bonus Programs are often held prior to the Program Meeting (normally from 5:15 to 6:00). Please go to <http://www.pmi-mcac.org> for additional information.

**Costs:** \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Anyone who does not register in advance will be charged an additional \$5 at the door. If you are not pre-registered, we may be unable to accommodate you due to restaurant limitations.