



# MAXIMUM FLOAT

## Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter

Volume VIII, Issue VII April 2007



### ***Program Meeting Announcement***

**Tuesday, April 17, 2007**

Program Meeting at 5:15 PM

Clarion Hotel and Conference Center

3600 Dunckel Drive, Lansing, MI

**Bonus Speaker: Nick Kwiatkowski,  
Topic: MSU's Telecommunication Systems**

**Dinner Speaker: Dave Davis  
Topic: A Practitioner's Guide to Project Governance**

To Register go to : <http://www.pmi-mcac.org/>  
And use the Monthly Program Meeting Link

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## **Message from the President**

**John Le Tourneau, PMP**

We are preparing for the upcoming officer elections. Please consider running for a PMI chapter office. It is a very rewarding activity and it will change your whole outlook and understanding of the local chapter. Please discuss this with any current or past chapter officer and I believe that you will hear about the positive benefits that being involved in the chapter brings.

We have some great speakers lined up for our last two programs, Dave Davis and Nick Kwiatkowski in April should be great. Dave Davis is has a lot of wisdom to impart and always does a great job. Tim Kroeker and Brian Jennings in May. Brian is going to give us an interesting perspective of his recent quest for a job and how he looked at it from a project management perspective. Visit our web site for registration information.

I would like to encourage all of you to think about giving a presentation at one of our program meetings. We are always looking for good speakers for the main or the bonus presentation. If you have an interesting or motivating project management story to tell, please submit an outline of your presentation for the main or bonus program. Speakers earn 5 PDUs and get a free dinner! If you have recently attended or know of a great PM presentation and you think it would be valuable to our members please let us know.

Have a great spring!

## **Past President**

**Stanley Samuel, MBA, PMP**

I am pleased to announce that the MCAC Operations manual project is completed and is waiting for approval from the MCAC Board. Dan Buonodono, MCAC President (2003-2005) initiated this project in 2005. The MCAC Board members for the term 2005-2006 provided valuable inputs to the Operations Manual.

In July 2006, the baton for leading this project was passed on to me. I led a team of past MCAC Board members, namely Viji Jayaraman, Joe Gawle, and Deb Mosher. This team met on a regular basis, almost every month for a period of 5-6 months and completed the final draft of this Operations Manual on March 20, 2007. Our team provided various recommendations to the MCAC Board for improving its operations, which were noted in the Operations Manual's appendix section. The Operations Manual was sent to the Board for review and approval on March 20, 2007. The Board is expected to approve/amend it before the end of the 2006-2007 Board year.

For the term 2007-2009 I will on a sabbatical from the MCAC Board, since I am currently attending school. Juggling school, board meetings, family and other commitments has become very difficult for me. I will continue to be an active member of the Chapter and may write an article or two for the newsletter.

The MCAC Elections are round the corner, so don't forget to volunteer your valuable services to the MCAC Board.

*Vice Presidents Reports continued on page 3*



## **Vice President – Membership**

**Dan Buonodono, PMP**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to our Chapter:

- Mr. Larry W. Fowler, McCartney & Company;
- Mr. Brian G. Fox, PMP, Getronics;
- Mrs. Stacy A. Hinds, Bosch Rexroth; and
- Mr. Douglas L. White, PMP, Accenture

The following Chapter member has attained their Project Management Professional (PMP) certification in March 2007: Mr. Rollin D. Tolly, PMP. Congratulations Rollin! We currently have 142 PMPs in our chapter.

We had 29 responses to our annual Membership Survey. Thank you all for giving the Board your candid comments. Each Board member is currently evaluating the responses and coming up with an action plan to improve our services to our members. Thanks again!

As a note, I will not seek re-election as the VP of Membership during the upcoming election. If you would like more information on this position, please read over the duties involved, which can be found in our bylaws, located on the Chapter website in Chapter Business → Public Files. Also, if you have questions regarding this position, such as time commitment and specific duties that I perform, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you are interested in running for this position, please contact Stanley Samuel, Immediate Past President, to be placed on the ballot.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next program meeting on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>!

## **Vice President – Logistics**

**Pam Sawatzki, PMP**

Even though the calendar says it is Spring, with the snow coming down doesn't really seem much like it! Don't let the weather be the reason not to attend this month's PMI dinner meeting. We have a bonus speaker Nick Kwiatkowski who recently managed a \$1 million dollar role of the cable TV, phone, fiber-optic and wireless system for MSU. Dave Davis is the planned main speaker to help you solve problems from the kick off stage with a Project Governance plan. It should be an interesting and informative night. Sign up today if you have not already.

We have been working on speakers for May, which is the last program of the year before we break for the summer. Watch the web site for your opportunity to attend this event.

### **MAXIMUM FLOAT**

*Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter*



**Published Monthly prior to Chapter Meetings**

***Vice President Reports  
continued on Page 4***

Charlie Kidd	Managing Editor	Amy Piper	Contributor
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Pam Sawatzki	Contributor	John LeTourneau	Contributor
Karl Meier	Contributor	Arun Sampath	Contributor

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## Vice President – Finance

Karl Meier

### Michigan Capital Area Chapter PMI Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2007

Assets	
Current Assets – Checking/Savings	\$22,921.32
Total Assets	<b>\$22,921.32</b>
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	\$0
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$22,934.58
Net Income	(\$13.26)
Total Equity	<b>\$22,921.32</b>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<b><u>\$22,921.32</u></b>

The above Balance Sheet is generated from the Chapter's accounting system and does not suggest audited information.

MCAC tax forms have been filed with both the IRS and PMI national. If you have any questions regarding the finances of the Chapter, please feel free to contact me at any time.

## Vice President – Programs

Amita Das, PMP

Hello everyone!

Our March presentation was an interesting project management topic – “ESTIMATING”. James Goebel, co-founder of Menlo Innovations in Ann Arbor, Michigan, presented on the Estimating Technique. James explained to our audience the review tips, traps and techniques for turning the estimation process and estimation results as a friendly aid to the Project Managers. As you all know, we had to make last minute changes to scheduled program as our earlier confirmed speaker couldn't make it due to health issues. We greatly appreciate and thank James for agreeing to present at the very last moment.

Our Bonus Topic for the month of March was “Implementing Project Management for New Product development” with Maureen Myers. As expected, she did wonderful job with this presentation.

Dave Davis, PMP will be our speaker for April. He will be presenting on “A Practitioner's Guide to Project Governance” and discussing ways to solve problems before they arise by using a Project Governance Document at the Project Kickoff. We are looking forward for his presentation.

Nick Kwiatkowski will be presenting next bonus program. Nick is from MSU's Telecommunication Systems department, in the Physical Plant Division and manages new installations of telecommunication systems. He is responsible for the Cable TV, Telephone, Fiber Optic and Wireless systems on campus.



We already have a speaker for the month of May. Tim Kroecker from Cambria Consulting, Inc. is coming in to discuss the topic "Developing Program Managers". This presentation is intended to highlight the importance of the role of leadership in project and program management using competency models as a guiding principle. The discussion will also include "how leadership competency models can be used to develop leadership qualities in project managers".

Also, Brian Jennings is presenting "Your Career as a Project Manager". Brian has done great job of keeping the topic interesting and relevant in the past.

We are always looking for good speakers for our program meetings. If you have an interesting or motivating project management story and would like to share it with others, please write me at [Programs@pmi-mcac.org](mailto:Programs@pmi-mcac.org).

We also have some great programs scheduled to start off the new program year in September and PDD in October. We'll see you at the next MCAC event!

## Four Keys to the Science of Success

By Michelle LaBrosse, PMP, Chief Cheetah, Cheetah Learning

We often make resolutions for improvement, but what many of us fail to do is break down those resolutions and think about how we're going to make them happen. This "how" is what I call the "Science of Success." It's the connective tissue that begins with vision and ends with gratitude. Here are the four keys to the Science of Success as I've experienced them at work and at home.

### 1) Vision

It's a word that scares some people because it sounds like the purview of CEOs and professors, but it is a word for every one of us to own. If you don't know what success looks like, how will you get there? It sounds simple, but most people have a hard time articulating what success looks like to them. Take a clean sheet of paper and answer the question for yourself: what is success for you? Does it mean working less hours and having more time for your family? Does it mean working smarter and being more effective? Does it mean having a house in the country? Does it mean going back to school for another degree or more training? Think of your vision as your charter. It's where you want to go. It's the view from the top of the mountain. Now, let's focus on getting there.

### 2) Learning

If you look at successful people, you'll notice one consistent theme: a love of learning. People who make it to the top of the mountain take great joy in learning all the way up to the summit. They'll often tell you that they learn more from the failures, and that in fact, it is usually a failure that opens the window to the opportunity. Sounds curious, but if you think about it, the difference is perspective: having a perspective that is based on learning. If every stone in the path up that mountain is an opportunity to learn something, then the journey is a rich experience. At Cheetah Learning, we often receive letters from our students after they have passed the PMP® exam, and after reflecting on their experience in the classroom, they realize that they learned a lot more than how to pass an exam. They learned skills about life, success and how to learn faster and better.

### 3) Project Management

You have a vision with a perspective based on continuous learning. Now, the question is: how to be effective? How do you translate what you learn and know so it helps you get where you're going? That's Project Management. Project Management is the art of getting things done.

As many people see vision as part of the CEO's world, Project Management is often seen as only one department's world. "Project Management is for those guys in IT or Manufacturing or..." That is one of the biggest myths of Project Management. Like vision, it is also for every one. After all, what is life, but a series of projects? If we are living and breathing, then we are surrounded by projects. Project Management gives us the knowledge and the skills to be more effective. It gives us the systems to marry the vision and learning and link it all together to get results. Whether you are a teacher, a mechanic or a manager in any department, we all need results to get the momentum that is the difference between standing still and moving ahead. That's why we call ourselves "Cheetahs." The Cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world, and we believe in getting to where we want to go fast.



#### 4) Gratitude

You can't turn around without seeing a book about relationship building, customer relationship management, or how to build better relationships. The "R" word seems to be everywhere as the great elixir for success. However, I'd take it one step further. We all have relationships of varying success, but how many of us have gratitude and show gratitude to others? This is not new age "mumbo-jumbo." Instead, it is recognizing and appealing to the most basic human emotional need: to be recognized, to be thanked, to matter to the person next to us. At Cheetah, we call this "an attitude of gratitude," and we actually have a program that encourages our Cheetahs to thank their fellow Cheetahs every month with gratitude points. An attitude of gratitude is infectious. It lets people feel good both by giving and receiving. There's a reason that people thank others in acceptance speeches because they are grateful for the people, ideas and energy that helped move them forward. They know that a major factor of their success has been gratitude.

So, let's look at where we've been: you have your vision and you know where you're going. You are embracing life with a learning perspective where you see every obstacle as an opportunity. You're going to flex your Project Management muscle to get where you're going faster and better, and along the way and especially once you get there, you'll always take the time to thank others and help other people on their journey.

You are ready to climb! Let's go. I'll see you at the top.

#### [About the Know How Network](#)

The Know How Network is a monthly column written by Michelle LaBrosse, the founder and Chief Cheetah of Cheetah Learning. Distributed to hundreds of newsletters and media outlets around the world, the Know How Network brings the promise, purpose and passion of Project Management to people everywhere.

## ***Monthly Program Meeting Information***

Next Meeting: May 15, 2007 5:15 PM – 8:30 PM

Bonus Speaker - Brian Jennings - "Your Career as a Project"

Dinner Speaker - Speaker - Tim Kroecker - "Developing Program Managers"

The MCAC Chapter Program Meetings are 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.