



# MAXIMUM FLOAT

## Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter

Volume VIII, Issue VIII May 2007



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

**Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

Program Meeting at 5:15 PM  
Clarion Hotel and Conference Center  
3600 Dunckel Drive, Lansing, MI

**Bonus Speaker: Brian Jennings**  
**Topic: "Your Career as a Project"**

**Dinner Speaker: Tim Kroecker**  
**Topic: "Developing Program Managers"**

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**

Things that I've learned, or had reinforced, over the last year:

That it's both easier and harder to lead a team of leaders. Leaders expect more from you but they also give more. People usually get into leadership positions because of their hard work and dedication. The board of this chapter is made up of leaders who are not shy. They will let you know what they think.

Seek first to understand and then to be understood. This habit from Steven Covey's "Seven Habits for Highly Effective Leaders" is so simple but ignored so often. How many times do we see people start to dictate a solution before they truly understand what the issue or problem really is. I've tried to exercise this principle early and often.

Take all concerns and issues seriously. I have a tendency to be a touch light hearted at times. Most people bringing up a concern have thought about it for while and it may have taken them some courage to speak up. The last thing they want is to be brushed off or chuckled at by someone else. We should all listen attentively to others concerns and take action if needed. This is always true even if the issue may seem trivial to us.

There will always be critics. No matter how hard you work, how much time you put in, or how much you accomplish there will always be people that are unhappy with you or your work. It sometimes makes it worse when the critics are not involved themselves and stand back and criticize from afar. But c'est la vie.

It takes a village to run a chapter. It takes involvement and commitment to keep a chapter running. We need new blood and new ideas all the time. Without the volunteerism of each of you this chapter will fade away over time and be no more.

It's been a good and interesting year for me, I hope it has been for you too!

## **Past President**

**Stanley Samuel, MBA, PMP**

Editor's Note: Stanley Samuel is in the process of moving to Indianapolis, Indiana to begin a new job. His contributions to the Chapter and the Board have been greatly appreciated and we'll miss his expertise.

Best of Luck Stanley!

## **Vice President – Communications**

**David Smith**

We are putting together a committee of volunteers to establish the Fall 2007 through Spring 2008 program year. We will meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis beginning May 22<sup>nd</sup> until the schedule is complete. Our program director, Amita Das, has already booked a speaker for September and our Professional Development Day is in October, so we will need to schedule programs for November, January, February, March, April, and May. Send your email address and phone number to [communications@pmi-mcac.org](mailto:communications@pmi-mcac.org) if you are interested in being on the committee or if you have ideas for speakers.

*Vice Presidents Reports continued on page 4*

# International Institute for Learning, Inc.

## MICHIGAN CLASS SCHEDULE

To view full course schedule visit [www.iil.com](http://www.iil.com)

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Jun 14-15, 2007 Dearborn, MI

#### OPM3® Standard Knowledge Course

If you are seeking in-depth knowledge on PMI's OPM3® standard or even considering working as a consultant or assessor in the new and emerging field of the Organizational Project Management Maturity Model (OPM3), this program will provide you with the necessary knowledge to build upon for future success. The 2-day OPM3 Knowledge Course, provided in cooperation with DNV, is an excellent way to prepare for the entrance exam, the first step in becoming a PMI Certified OPM3 Assessor or Consultant.

\$1,495.00 | 14 Hours | CEUs: 1.4 PDU: 14  
Jun 21-22, 2007 Dearborn, MI

#### Stakeholder Relationship Skills for Project Managers

This 2 day course is designed to provide project managers with the ability to analyze the complexities of major stakeholder relationship categories, apply the most appropriate interpersonal relationship skills to the different categories of relationships and align the dynamic needs of the stakeholders with a project's objective throughout the project life cycle.

\$1,295.00 | 14 Hours | CEUs: 1.4 PDU: 14  
Jun 19-20, 2007 Sterling Heights, MI

#### Business Analysis Fundamentals

It teaches participants the overall process of business analysis and where it fits in the bigger picture of project life cycle and the business context. The course is interactive and combines discussion, active workshops, and demonstrations of techniques. The goal is bottom-line results that cut through the real-world problems facing people seeking to improve the way they operate to develop new and improved systems and products or otherwise deliver results through project performance.

\$1,495.00 | 14 Hours | CEUs: 1.4 PDU: 14  
Jul 12-13, 2007 Dearborn, MI

#### Project Management Fundamentals

The goal of this course is to achieve quality performance through effective planning and control, process orientation and an analytical, systems-oriented approach to problem solving and decision making that acknowledges the need for collaboration and clear communications among people, often in multiple organizations.

\$1,295.00 | 14 Hours | CEUs: 1.4 PDU: 14  
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## CONTACT

For more information on these programs, please contact Kathy Tcherychova at 212.515.5125 or [Kathy.Tcherychova@iil.com](mailto:Kathy.Tcherychova@iil.com)  
For queries on onsite/group training, please contact Michael Connolly at 212.515.5161 or [Michael.Connolly@iil.com](mailto:Michael.Connolly@iil.com)



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**Vice President Reports continued from Page 2**

**Vice President – Membership**

**Dan Buonodono, PMP**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to our Chapter: Mr. Ryan W Brookes, Mr. Scott W Nemeth, and Mr. Ashok Kumar Ramanjanappa, PMP!

The following Chapter members have attained their Project Management Professional (PMP) certification in April 2007: Mr. Larry Fowler and Mr. Karl Meier. Congratulations Larry and Karl! We currently have 142 PMPs in our chapter.

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 would like to be nominated for this position and appear on the ballot, please contact Stanley Samuel, Immediate Past President.

I have truly enjoyed working on the MCAC Board of Directors for the last eight years, serving my first four years as VP of Publicity; the next several years as Chapter President; and the last two years as VP of Membership. I will continue to play an active role in Chapter affairs.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our next program meeting on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>!

**Vice President – Logistics**

**Pam Sawatzki, PMP**

I will be looking forward to seeing lots of people at our final meeting of the season at the Lansing Clarion Hotel. We have a great line up with Brian Jennings as our bonus presenter. Many of you know the trials Brian has endured in his job search. He will be detailing the many steps he took in today's job market.

We will also hold the elections for the chapter during the meeting and have a brief recognition of the volunteers of the past year. We will conclude with the main speaker Tim Kroecker and his topic "Developing Program Managers". Register today for the May 15th Program. The bonus program begins at 5:15pm.

**Vice President Reports continued on Page 5**

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*Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter*



**Published Monthly prior to Chapter Meetings**

|                |                 |                 |             |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Charlie Kidd   | Managing Editor | Amy Piper       | Contributor |
| Stanley Samuel | Contributor     | Dan Buonodono   | Contributor |
| Pam Sawatzki   | Contributor     | John LeTourneau | Contributor |
| Karl Meier     | Contributor     | Arun Sampath    | Contributor |

**Publicity@pmi-mcac.org**

**Vice President – Finance**

Karl Meier

**Michigan Capital Area Chapter PMI  
Balance Sheet  
As of April 30, 2007**

|                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assets                            |                               |
| Current Assets – Checking/Savings | \$22,397.43                   |
| <b>Total Assets</b>               | <b>\$22,397.43</b>            |
| Liabilities & Equity              |                               |
| Liabilities                       | \$0                           |
| Equity                            |                               |
| Retained Earnings                 | \$22,934.58                   |
| Net Income                        | (\$537.15)                    |
| <b>Total Equity</b>               | <b>\$22,397.43</b>            |
| <br>Total Liabilities and Equity  | <br><u><b>\$22,397.43</b></u> |

The above Balance Sheet is generated from the Chapter's accounting system and does not suggest audited information. If you have any questions regarding the finances of the Chapter, please feel free to contact me at any time.

**Cross the Digital Divide and Get Where You're Going Faster**

*By Michelle LaBrosse, PMP, Chief Cheetah, Cheetah Learning*

I was recently at a conference of women business owners, and I attended a break-out session about blogging. By the end of the session, I was struck by how many of the women in the room were digitally challenged. These were highly successful and intelligent women, but it seemed that many of them were fearful of technology. With technology affecting all aspects of our lives exponentially, I realized that their digital fear could become paralyzing and get in the way of their personal and professional success.

When we think of the digital divide traditionally, it focused on access to the Internet, computers, software and education. That division hasn't gone away. It has shifted, but it's still a critical issue – especially when we look globally at the developing world.

In the United States, there is an income digital-divide with more than 62% of households with incomes over \$100,000 subscribing to high-speed broadband at home, while just 11% of households with incomes below \$30,000 subscribing. There is also a rural/urban digital divide: Only 17% of adults in rural areas subscribe to broadband compared to 31% in urban and 30% in suburban areas.<sup>1</sup>

Beyond the socio-economic factors, I think there is another digital divide that is perceptual. If you have the access to technology, but you don't use it to your advantage, you're throwing away your ticket to the great digital concert. You're wasting an opportunity that many people don't have and potentially affecting your ability to succeed in the future.

If you see yourself as a digital disaster, it's not too late to learn and take the digital dive.

**Five Ways to Take the Digital Dive**

<sup>1</sup> According to speedmatters.org, a site managed by the Communications Workers of America  
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1. Think of what technology or software skills would improve your performance. Sign up for a class online and experience e-learning.
2. Spend time with your IT friends or colleagues. Pick their brains. Ask them what they read online and what sites and blogs they visit.
3. Choose a topic that you're passionate about, do an Internet search and begin reading and participating in a blog that speaks to you.
4. Watch your children or the youth around you. See how they communicate. Text message your favorite niece. Build a profile on FaceBook or MySpace. Get in the groove with where the next generation is going.
5. If you're a project manager, make sure you're using technology to automate processes. Always ask yourself: Can this be automated?

In Project Management, being digitally proficient is a key part of your success. You can use web-based tools like the Wiki to manage your teams and projects or web meetings to bring a virtual team together. The more technology is working for you, the smarter your workflow will be.

How technology savvy are you? Try our technology [crossword puzzle](#) and see how you rate. No matter what you score, remember the game isn't over, it's just beginning. So, get out there and change your view. See yourself as part of the digerati, and you will be. See you online!

#### [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. For further information go to: [www.cheetalearning.com](http://www.cheetalearning.com)

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

Next Meeting: September 18, 2007 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Dinner Speaker - Speaker - Rudolf Melik, - "Empower Your Workforce"

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.