



# MAXIMUM FLOAT

## Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter

Volume IX, Issue VI April 2008



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

**Tuesday, April 15, 2008**

**Program Meeting at 6:00 PM**

**Clarion Hotel and Conference Center**

**3600 Dunckel Drive, Lansing, MI**

**Dinner Speaker: Jim Alger, Co-Founder/Partner and Greg Hopkins, Vice President, Gnosis Technologies, Inc.**

**Topic:**

**" Requirements Modeling "**

To Register go to : <http://www.pmi-mcac.org/>

And use the Monthly Program Meeting Link

Special Reduced Rate for Only Attending Speaker Portion of Meeting at 7:00 PM. See the above link for details!

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## Message from the President

Amy J. Piper, Ph.D., PMP

Many of you know that I have been on an extended assignment in Cordoba, Argentina for the last several months. I'm back now and looking forward to seeing you all again at the Program Meetings. I have to say it was a great experience. Another plus was that I missed the terrible Michigan winter!

Just a reminder regarding the Michigan Capital Area Chapter elections, which will be held at the chapter's annual business meeting in May. Please consider getting involved in the operation of your chapter by running for an open Board position. In order to continue to mature as an organization, we are looking for diverse additional talent. The Open Board positions include:

- Chapter President (this position opens annually);
- Vice President of Programs,
- Vice President of Professional Development,
- Vice President of Communications, and
- Vice President of Logistics.

You can view the duties of these positions by reviewing the chapter bylaws at [www.pmimcac.org/pmimcacbylaws.html](http://www.pmimcac.org/pmimcacbylaws.html). If you would like to attend a Board meeting to see what's involved, feel free to contact me. You will be hearing from John LeTourneau concerning nominations for these positions soon.

*Vice-President's Messages continued on page 4*

### PMI Michigan Capital Area Chapter Officers

**President**

Amy Piper, PhD, PMP  
President@pmi-mcac.org

**Past President**

John LeTourneau, PMP  
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**VP Membership**

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**VP Finance**

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**VP Outreach**

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**VP Special Projects**

Karl A. Meier  
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# MI Huron Valley Chapter

## Job Fair for Project Managers PMI Huron Valley Chapter April 21, 2008

### Looking for New Project Management Opportunities?

We've brought together a number of top PM employers in one place. Talk directly to companies that are looking for your experience, expertise, and enthusiasm. If you are one of the following, this is a great chance for you to meet representatives from companies that are looking for your skills:

- ✓ PMP or actively working toward certification
- ✓ Experienced in managing projects with a specific scope, budget, or deadline
- ✓ Experienced in managing the balance between scope, budget, and schedule in a business environment

### Participating Companies

- Advisicon
- Compuware
- IMSI
- SmartWorkforce Solutions
- Campbell-Ewald
- Jawood Management Associates
- PCubed

(Participation subject to change)

### Logistics

- ✓ Monday, April 21, 2008
- ✓ 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm networking reception
- ✓ 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm employer presentations and booths
- ✓ Holiday Inn, 3600 Plymouth Road (at US-23), Ann Arbor, MI

### Registration

- ✓ **Advanced registration and payment by April 14<sup>th</sup> is required to attend this event**
- ✓ Register at [2008 PMI-HVC Job Fair](#)
- ✓ Registrants can elect to have their resumes forwarded to employers ahead of the fair
- ✓ \$15 for PMI-HVC members; \$20 for non-members
- ✓ For more information, visit us at <http://www.pmi-hvc.org> (see Chapter Meetings)



Sponsored by the Huron Valley Chapter of Project Management International



## Vice President – Professional Development

**Marjorie Greer McIntyre, PMP**

Preparations for our 2008 Professional Development Day (PDD) are ramping up. If your desire is to hone your project management skills, then you will not want to miss this magnificent event. PDD will be held on Monday, October 13, 2008 at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel on Creyts Road. Come out and hear our Keynote Speaker, James T. Brown, presenting, “Kill What’s Ugly While It’s Young.” There will also be a host of additional dynamic speakers. We will be sure to keep you abreast of this year’s spectacular PDD!

The current PMP Exam Study Group is slated to conclude this month. Congratulations to those who braved the grueling study load and had the tenacity to hang in there until the end. The proud graduates are as follows:

Cathie Coens  
Ken Barrett  
Derek Braswell  
Ray Moraniec  
Jarret McClendon  
Mary Sapienza  
Cindy Turben

The next PMP Exam Study Group will kick off during the month of May. Additional information will be disseminated to the membership in the near future. If you would like to add your name to the waiting list, please contact me. Enjoy the beautiful weather!

## Vice President – Special Projects



**Karl Meier**  
**PM Eye on Randy Jobski**

Randy works for EDS and is a Programme Manager. He is currently working on a “Secure Data Network” environment in Plano, Texas for EDS. Plano is EDS’s corporate headquarters. Randy attends our monthly meetings to network, learn new project management skills, and get ideas from his peers that he can apply in his work.

Now if seeing Randy’s name in this section gives you the feeling of déjà vu that is because Randy also won the free meeting drawing a few months ago. How can that be you might ask? Well Randy attends just about every meeting, so his odds of wining a drawing are pretty good. What are your odds?

Again, Randy is a regular at our monthly meetings, so if you attend as well, you will already know Randy. If not, please take a minute to introduce yourself to him at our next meeting.

*Vice Presidents Reports continued on page 5*



## Vice President – Membership

John Oldham, PMP

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following members...

New to the Chapter since our March meeting:

**Teri Hanes  
Lori Koons  
D. McKnight**

The Michigan Capital Area Chapter includes 142 PMPs in the 204 total membership count.

I am looking forward to seeing you during our next Chapter Program Meeting on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Vice President – Finance

Alireza Namvar, MBA, PMP

### Michigan Capital Area Chapter PMI Balance Sheet As of March 31, 2008

Assets	
Current Assets – Checking/Savings	\$25,726.59
Total Assets	<b>\$25,726.59</b>
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	\$0
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$24,886.31
Net Income	\$840.28
Total Equity	<b>\$25,726.59</b>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<b><u>\$25,726.59</u></b>

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.

*Vice Presidents Reports continued on page 6*



## Vice President – Outreach

Arun Sampath, PMP

I would like to direct our membership's attention towards an interesting article that appeared in this month's (April) edition of PMI today titled "Extraordinary Volunteer Program is a Primary PMI Member Benefit". This article aptly summarizes the value of volunteering both to the member him/herself as well as to the organization. Most of you know that we always look for volunteers to help us increase the range of our activities. Please take a moment to consider what you can give back to an organization that you have been a part of. On that note, we are considering expanding our outreach activity to include community programs as well starting next program year (after July, 08). If you have any ideas or would like to be a part of this please contact me at [outreach@pmi-mcac.org](mailto:outreach@pmi-mcac.org) .

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Michigan Capital Area Chapter Newsletter



Published Monthly prior to Chapter Meetings

Charlie Kidd	Managing Editor	Amy Piper	Contributor
Pam Sawatzki	Contributor	John Oldham	Contributor
Karl Meier	Contributor	John LeTourneau	Contributor
Arun Sampath	Contributor		
Marjorie Greer		Alireza Namvar	Contributor
<b>McIntyre</b>	Contributor		

## DO YOU HAVE THE GREATEST PROJECT MANAGEMENT ABILITY?

The ability to anticipate is by far the greatest project management ability.

**By Dr. James T. Brown PMP, President of SEBA® Solutions, Inc.**

The ability to anticipate is by far the greatest project management ability. Anticipation is an ability that is a culmination of knowledge, experience and skill. The ability to anticipate is not only what separates great project managers from good project managers; it is what separates great from good in most professions. The best hitters in baseball have the ability to anticipate what kind of pitch will be thrown to them and where the ball will be when it is time to swing the bat. The best soccer goalies have the ability to anticipate where the ball will be kicked so they can block it. This really comes into play during penalty kicks and this ability to anticipate will determine the goalies success or failure.

What the baseball batter and the soccer goalie have in common is that they cannot be successful trying to cover every possible outcome. The batter cannot possible hit the ball with power and control trying to protect the entire strike zone. He has to limit the strike zone to maximize the chances of getting a hit. The goalie cannot possibly guard the entire net. He has to determine what part of the net he will defend and what part will be left unprotected. The batter and goalie that can most effectively anticipate and plan their response to the future circumstances get the best results. This is also true of project managers.

The challenge of project management is so daunting that the project manager's ability to anticipate and plan has a direct correlation on their ability to execute. A lot of project management books will state that everything needs to be planned in detail and every risk needs to be covered with a risk plan. This is good in theory and for a very small percentage of projects it is good in practice. However, most project managers live in a world characterized by uncertainty. Uncertain requirements, resources, risks, etc. The role of the project manager is to minimize or eliminate this uncertainty, but it is rare when uncertainty doesn't exist at significant levels. Therefore the best project managers anticipate. They are able to visualize and plan through the fog. They make aggressive decisions based on what they anticipate. The average and poor performing project manager waits on the fog to clear. They complain or whine constantly about the uncertainty and it becomes an excuse for inaction.

The great project managers anticipate then act. The great baseball hitters sometimes swing and miss wildly. The great soccer goalie sometimes leaps to the wrong end of the net. They make mistakes just like the great performing project manager will make mistakes. To anticipate and act means that you will occasionally make mistakes. Over the course of a project, program or career these mistakes will be small compared to the number of good decisions that were made due to excellent anticipation. The successful project manager is a continual learner, not afraid to make decisions based on what they know to be true and what they anticipate to be true.

The ability to anticipate can really be summed up with one simple phrase. "TOP" (**T**raini**ng**, **O**bservation, **P**racti**ce**.)The combination of these three activities aggressively deployed provides the ability to anticipate and the confidence to act.

**Training** – There are always rare exceptions, like someone – born with a gift that can play the piano masterfully without training. As a rule though, expertise and even basic proficiency cannot be achieved without training. If it wasn't so prevalent and sad, the number of companies that expect their project managers to be successful without training would be amusing.

*Do you know any project management quacks (PMQ's)?*

Would you go to a medical doctor who had no formal training but said "I have been doctoring on people for 15 years". Most would quickly identify this doctor as a quack. There are a lot of project management quacks out there. The doctor without training may indeed be able to practice medicine with minor or perhaps moderate success but certainly not at the level of someone that is a trained physician. What would you think of the football coach who told his team we'll learn as the game goes along because we don't have the time or budget for training?

Part of what makes Tiger Woods the golf champion that he is, was training from an early age. In the absence of that training he would not have been a child prodigy or dominating golf as he does today. In fact, he still values training and still submits himself (even at his level of expertise and accomplishment) to coaching. I am always amazed when I come across project managers who don't feel the need for training. Projects involve lots of variables including technology, resources and the most complex variable of all – people. Project management is so complex it is worthy of life long study if you choose to excel at it. There is a marked difference between proficiency and excellence.

*A PMP doesn't make you or anyone else a good project manager!*

Yes, the basics are easily acquired. PMP certification is in fact readily acquired with effort. A PMP certification by itself does not make you a great project manager or even capable of managing a challenging project. Greatness in any endeavor is the application of the basics and the summation of a large number of little things done well. This is what characterizes the masters in any field of endeavor. When I go to training (and I do) I am looking for the little things that take the basics to another level.

In the next issue of this newsletter, we will discuss **the O and P of TOP (observation and practice)** and their role in obtaining the greatest project management skill of anticipation.

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[Dr. James T. Brown PMP](#) is president of [SEBA® Solutions Inc.](#) a Registered Education Provider with the Project Management Institute and is the author of [The Handbook of Program Management](#) published by McGraw-Hill. He provides project management training and keynote speeches worldwide and may be reached at [jtbrown@sebasolutions.com](mailto:jtbrown@sebasolutions.com).



## Monthly Program Meeting Information

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 PM to 6:00 PM). Networking begins at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 6:30 PM. The Main Program begins at 7:00 PM. Please go to <http://www.pmi-mcac.org> to registration and for additional information.

**Costs:** \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members which includes dinner. A presentation-only option is available to members for \$10 and non-members for \$15. 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