



Building professionalism in project management.™

Project Management Institute

Eastern Iowa Chapter

100's NUGGET

2010 Issue 12

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P.O. Box 1811
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December



Happy
Holidays from
your Chapter
Leadership Team.

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**He who fails to plan,
plans to fail.**

Anon

Our Next Chapter Meeting - February 10, 2011

The next PMI breakfast meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 10th, 2011** from **7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Clarion Hotels and Convention Center, 525 33rd Avenue, Cedar Rapids SW, Iowa.** The Clarion Hotel and Convention Center phone number is **(319) 366-8671**.

Program Title:

"Enterprise Operational Analytics for Program Management" presented by Joel Gaede

About the Program:

Broad based Operational Analytics have traditionally been a tenet of only the largest corporations. Through the use of existing technologies and business analysis packages, we are creating a unified vision of operational utilization patterns and trends. Analysis is also performed incorporating equity market technical analysis to provide an additional interpretation of data. The central component of the ACT Operational Analytics and Forecasting Program is the monetization of computing resources, enabling a viable chargeback model. Components of the computational currency will include server, network, electricity, maintenance contracts, etc.. These analyses are then used by leadership to provide accurate long term budget projections and allow timely allocation of resources for key business programs.

About the Speaker:

Joel Gaede has over 25 years in IT operations, in the fields of finance, manufacturing and education. He is currently developing the Operational Analytics and Forecasting Program at ACT Inc, in Iowa City. Joel holds a Masters of Business Administration and is currently pursuing a Masters of Science in Informatics at the University of Iowa.

Cost: Chapter Members, \$10; Guests, \$15

RSVP: Please confirm no later than **Thursday, Feb 4th**, to programregistration@pmieasterniowa.org; use **NOVEMBER REGISTRATION** in the subject line. Cancellations must be received by COB, Friday, February 5th to avoid being charged as a no-show for this chapter event.

Program Schedule:

7:15 - 7:30	Registration, breakfast, and networking
7:30—7:45	Opening by Chapter President / Chapter Officers
7:45 - 8:45	Presentation / Discussion
8:45 - 9:00	Final announcements and wrap-up

Buffet Breakfast Menu (subject to change):

French toast w/ maple syrup and whipped butter / Golden scrambled eggs w/ Cheddar cheese/ Fresh fruit / Regular / Decaf Coffee/ Hot Tea.

Going for a song!



Remember Aesop's fable about the swan and the goose, and how the swan was about to meet a tragic fate while the cook fumbled in the dark for his intended recipe? Quick thinking and breaking out into a 'swan song' allowed it to be saved from the dinner table. One last ditch effort to be heard! While no such ending applies to me, this missive serves as my swan song to the Chapter and my role as its 2010 president.

All in all, 2010 has been a busy year for the Eastern Iowa Chapter. Let us take a minute to recap all that we have accomplished in the past 12 months.

- 8 monthly Chapter meetings with outstanding topics ranging from Multi-dimensional Behavior to Earned Value Management.
- 1 Chapter "Fun Night"
- 1 Professional Development Day, attended by nearly 100 participants
- Setting up the PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter annual Scholarship fund in conjunction with the PMI Educational Foundation
- Steady Chapter membership numbers

Financially, too, we have done an excellent job, and these results will be available in more detail in our Annual Report due at the end of this year. We plan to share this at our February 2011 Chapter meeting.

On another note – we have consciously made subtle changes to the format of our Chapter meetings to provide a greater opportunity for members to network through the concept of icebreakers. Members of the Chapter's leadership team have deliberately been sitting at different tables to welcome members and provide useful feedback. We have added yet another medium of reminding members of upcoming events by running a PowerPoint slide show in the background at the beginning of Chapter meetings to advertise all the things happening in our Chapter and to provide important announcements. We have a process in place to welcome new PMP-certified members and new members in general. Perhaps the increased number of participants for the November Chapter meeting was a positive indication of all that has been done during 2010.

We recognize that plenty of work still needs to be done in several areas. Following problems with our current Web site and IT vendor, the leadership team has initiated steps to move to a new platform for hosting our Chapter Web site. This migration is expected to be done by the end of the first quarter of 2011 and should result in much better performance compared to the previous site. The new platform has been built and is supported by a fellow PMI Chapter in the Midwest, so it is somewhat reassuring to know that many of our needs are already reflected in the existing platform. The new platform boasts an automated event registration management system and a host of features that will provide a more user friendly interface for our members. At the backend, it should also make the work done by the leadership team more efficient.

Looking ahead to the next decade, I feel very happy to see the members of the leadership team we have for 2011. Led by Tammy Sweat (President), this group of very talented members is armed with several great ideas and the commitment to complete what has been started and that we all take for granted. Their resolve is coupled with unfathomable energy and enthusiasm to get these ideas implemented. I am confident that this drive and determination can take our Chapter to the next level and help better serve our members.

It is on this note that I say to you one final time – Thank You. It has been a privilege to serve you as President of the PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter.

Bhaskar Pulikal PMP®

President



News you can use....

CHAPTER FEES TO CHANGE

Starting January 1, 2011 the Eastern Iowa Local Chapter fee will increase from \$25 to \$30. This increase is necessary to cover the increasing costs of hosting our Chapter meetings and facilities.

This fee will be indicated on your membership Renewal Notices under "**COMPONENT MEMBERSHIPS-Eastern Iowa Chapter**".

CHAPTER MEETING DAYS TO CHANGE

As announced in previous Newsletters, commencing February 2011, the monthly Chapter meetings will no longer take place on Tuesdays.

The new day will now be Thursday. Please mark your calendars appropriately and keep an eye for announcements from the Leadership team and keep checking the website for more information.

The first meeting for 2011, will take place on Thursday February 10, 2011.

WIN A FREE BREAKFAST MEETING

As we all know the Chapter Leadership team has now changed and we all feel that it would be an opportune time to change the name of our Newsletter from "100's Nugget" to something else. For those of you that were interested in the reason for the previous name – the Eastern Iowa Chapter is the 100th chapter of the PMI.

If you have any suggestions please send them to newsletter@pmieasterniowa.org. The winner will get an invitation to attend a Chapter Meeting in 2011 at no cost.

The closing date for this is January 7, 2011 so get your entries in soon.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE CHANGES

In the interests of stream lining Chapter Roles and Responsibilities the Leadership team has eliminated some existing Board of Director roles.

Removed – Director at Large, Director of Volunteers, and Director of Technology.

The Leadership Team wishes to thank previous volunteers for their support in these roles.

Merged - Director of Website with Director of Technology, Director of Corporate Outreach with other VP roles.

Currently Open – Director of Newsletter. If you are interested in this role please speak to any member of the Chapter Leadership team for more information.

Behind the scenes

During the month of November, the Chapter Leadership team:

- Finalized plans to migrate to a new IT Vendor.
- Continued to work with new volunteers to place them on the team.
- Held the monthly Chapter meeting and conference calls with the BOD.
- Held a 2011 Leadership Strategy meeting.

By the Numbers

The PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter membership currently stands at **310**, with **168 PMP®s**, 5 new members, and 11 renewals.

PMI Chapter Transfers

If you have a need to transfer chapters because you have moved or relocated due to employment location changes, be sure to update or renew your membership data at the PMI global website, www.pmi.org

A Study Group -- Yes or No -- Did it help?

Beth Anne Tingley-Pigge

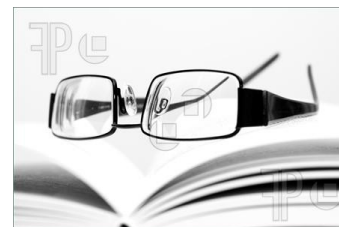
Back in the summer I organized a study group to study for the PMP exam. It did help! This is how:

- Made me organize the study materials
- Made me create a time line of study (KEY SUCCESS FACTOR)
- Helped me to set an exam date (KEY POINT)
- Helped motivate me to study -- meeting someone else, etc.
- I passed!

So, if you are interested in taking the exam...I encourage you to "advertise thru the chapter" -- find others -- it helped me and I think it could help you! If I can help in any way, contact me at: elizabeth.tingley-pigge@cigna.com

P.S. One other person from the study group now has a test date locked in! Yeah!

Thanks.



Are You a Superhero?

Margaret Meloni, MBA, PMP[®]

Are you a take charge, save the day, in control kind of person? Are you reliable, focused and straightforward? Are you determined to get the job done no matter what it takes?

"Alright" you say; "If that makes me a superhero then sign me up."

Do you always absolutely need to be in control? Are you so focused that all you can see is just getting it done? Are you very blunt and direct when you communicate? Are you absolutely certain that there is one right way to complete a task and that way is your way?

It may be that you suffer from superhero syndrome. Sorry, that is right, syndrome. This means that you are smart, reliable, focused and incredibly good at seeing goals through to completion. But you are not, I repeat, you are not a superhero. You are a highly valued part of the team. You may be the leader, but you are still part of a team.

A good leader is not a superhero. Superheroes rarely cooperate with anyone because they're...well, super! They don't need anyone but themselves to get the job done, but you do. Your team is there for you and by working together you successfully complete a project. Without your team there would be no success. Your job would also be much harder and more stressful. Why make it any more difficult by not using your team's full capabilities?

If you communicate very directly with no regard for the feelings of others, you are not going to have an ideal team. You'll have a collection of people working for you but not *with* you. For instance, if a team member shows up late one morning and you admonish him for it, you might think you've prevented future tardiness. But by not taking the time to listen to why he was late, you've fostered resentment in that person and damaged your business relationship. Taking the time to be diplomatic and really listen to your employees always pays off in loyalty and respect.

Try not to act like a tank and roll right over your team members. Because you are so focused, you may appear overly aggressive. Some may find you to be arrogant or even a bully. Is this what you want? If the answer is yes, well congratulations you have met your goal. No one respects or admires arrogance; such a trait inspires fear and disloyalty, the opposite of what a good team leader needs to be successful.

If the answer is no, slow down a bit and think before you act. When you come on strong, others around you may shut down. You may think that is just their problem. But the problem is you are missing out on other valuable input. Remember that if someone suggests an alternative approach to completing a task, it is not a direct attack on you. The reason you work with a team is to get different views and suggestions, and to take advantage of the creativity of others. If your ideas are the only ones ever implemented you have probably missed out on many good solutions that would make your own job easier and your projects more successful. You can achieve your goal and build relationships along the way.

If you see yourself in this description of a superhero, don't despair. Set about repairing your business relationships and be honest with your team about your shortcomings. They'll respect you for it and work all the harder for you.

If you work with a superhero, here are some pointers to help you harness their superpowers:

- Be prepared when you approach them with questions, communications or other information. Anticipate their reactions and have your own ready.
- Be specific and stick to the facts.
- Be concise, get to the point quickly.
- Be professional and keep your emotions in check. Remember that when a superhero type of person offends, it's rarely intentional.
- Remember to support their need to accomplish a task or goal.
- If necessary, allow them to have the last word.

Remember, it takes all different types of people to form an effective team.

About the Author: Margaret Meloni, MBA, PMP, is an executive coaching consultant for IT professionals. She helps project managers and teams work together better by improving their soft skills.

Learn how to successfully combine your technical and soft skills in her webinars from The PDU Podcast (www.pducaster.com) and from her website at www.margaretmeloni.com.



2010 Professional Development Day Gold Sponsor – University of Wisconsin-Platteville



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
PLATTEVILLE
ONLINE

The PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter thanks the University of Wisconsin-Platteville (UW-Platteville) for being a gold sponsor for our 2010 Professional Development Day. UW-Platteville provided the following information on their program and course offerings.

Online Master of Science in Project Management

Registration Deadline

January 10, 2011, is the last day to register for UW-Platteville Spring 2011 courses for the online **Master of Science in Project Management (MSPM)**.

Project Management Conference Save the Date July 25-28, 2011

UW-Platteville will host its second annual "Secrets to Success in Project Management Conference" next summer on July 25-28. This year's conference will focus on soft skills needed for project success and feature speakers from multiple industries including IT, manufacturing, insurance, and more. Save the date and check the website goUWP.com/PMCONF for more information to come.

New Meeting and Event Management Emphasis for the

Master of Science in Project Management

The MSPM degree is offering a new Meeting and Event Management emphasis, with the first course being offered in Spring 2011.

COMMUNICATION 5800 Meeting and Event Management will examine the basics of meeting/event planning, going through topics such as conducting a needs analysis, identifying stakeholders, setting objectives, establishing a budget, developing the program, completing an event specifications guide, and much more. The course looks at meetings or events hosted by corporations, associations, and government agencies. It also examines the key suppliers for meetings and events, such as destination marketing organizations, facilities, caterers, audio/visual providers, and many others. At the completion of this course, students will have a very good overview of the dynamic industry that is a vital part of the third largest industry in the world (hospitality and tourism).

Request Degree Information Today!

DistanceEd@uwplatt.edu

800.362.5460 or 608.342.1468

<http://www.uwplatt.edu/disted/project-management.html>

2010 Professional Development Day Silver Sponsor – St. Ambrose University

The PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter wishes to thank St. Ambrose University for being a sponsor for our 2010 Professional Development Day. St. Ambrose University provided the following information on their program and course offerings.



The Lewis Institute and St. Ambrose University

Are you looking for PDUs to maintain your PMI certification? St. Ambrose University has partnered with The Lewis Institute, a registered education provider with the Project Management Institute®, to provide thirteen different Project Management training programs.

The Lewis Institute has built a reputation for delivering practical, hands-on instruction that provides tools and techniques you can use immediately upon leaving the seminar to manage your own projects. 18 PDUs for each seminar are available through PMI.

Upcoming 2011 Project Management training schedule

Seminars	Date
Project Management: Tools, Principles and Practices	March 1 - 3, 2011
Mastering IT Project Management	March 15 - 17, 2011
PMP Exam Prep	March 29 - 31, 2011
Team Based Project Management	April 12 - 14, 2011
Behavior in Organizations	April 26 - 28, 2011
How to be a Highly Effective Project Manager	May 10 - 12, 2011
Project Management: Tools, Principles and Practices	May 24 - 26, 2011
Managing HealthCare IT Projects	June 7 - 9, 2011
Whole Brain Project Management	June 21 - 23, 2011
Project Management: Tools, Principles and Practices	Sept 13 - 15, 2011
How to Communicate, Influence and Negotiate in PM	Sept 27 - 29, 2011
Mastering Software Development Leadership	October 11 - 13, 2011
Managing Risk & Procurement	October 25 - 27, 2011
Managing Capital Projects	Nov 15 - 17, 2011
eXtreme Project Management	Nov 29 - Dec 1, 2011
Project Management: Tools, Principles and Practices	Dec 6 - 8, 2011

Each program is three-days in length and includes all seminar materials, networking luncheons, PDUs or CEUs. Participants can pick and choose which program fits their needs or they can complete the Professional Certificate in Project Management by completing three core courses and two electives in three years.

For questions or more information, please contact Jennifer Prinz at St. Ambrose at 563/441-9950, PrinzJenniferL@sau.edu. Full seminar descriptions are available online at www.sau.edu/pdc.

November PMI Eastern Iowa Chapter meeting Recap

Behram Kasad

Thanks to Amy Tersner for, at very short notice, standing in for Sung Soon Schultz and present the interesting and loaded concept of Earned Value Management (EVM).

Amy (pictured below) emphasized that EVM was no longer just consultant speak, but an active project performance tool that was used by corporations as a formal management methodology for integrating scope, schedule and resources, and objectively measuring project performance and progress.

The Chapter wishes to thank Amy Tersner for her insight into this interesting subject area.



Dakota Prymek (below left), winner of 1st Scholarship of PMI Eastern Iowa with PMIEF, with his parents Suzanne and Smoe Prymek. Dakota accepted the award from Chapter President Bhaskar Pulikal at the meeting.



Chapter members enjoying breakfast prior to the Earned Value Management presentation at the November 2010 Chapter Meeting.

5 Reasons NOT to Take a PMP Exam Boot Camp

By Cornelius Fichtner, PMP ®

Often touted as “ideal targeted training” for the Project Management Professional (PMP) exam, many people find PMP boot camps are an attractive option for exam preparation.

While boot camps are designed to deliver noticeable results with a high-output of effort in a short period of time, the drawbacks of choosing this path for exam preparation often outweigh the benefits.

Bootcamps may work for some because the instructors are usually highly qualified with master’s degrees, prior training, and years of industry experience. Most also offer a pass guarantee and will assume financial risk if you fail. They may offer to pay for your exam re-take or provide custom coaching and feedback.

Quoting high first- and second-time pass rates, boot camp programs claim to be the ideal package for exam preparation, often including the PMBOK® Guide, a prep guide, test-style prep questions, and meals during classroom sessions. If you would like a surefire way to pass the PMP exam in a short period of time, then a boot camp may be just what you’re looking for.

However, PMP boot camps definitely have their share of drawbacks and these drawbacks are the reason why I never recommend a boot camp to any of my students.

Reason #1: Boot camps are expensive.

Designed to be the ideal all-in-one exam preparation experience, the sheer cost of boot camps make them less-than-ideal for those of us on a budget. An intensive 4-day course can cost you several thousand dollars, depending on your location, whether it’s a busy time of year, and the availability of included amenities. While the up-front cost may seem astronomical, check to see if it includes the actual PMP exam fee and comes backed with a pass guarantee. Most boot camp companies will offer to cover tailored tutoring and re-take exam fees if you fail the first or second time. If you fail a third time, they may even offer to let you take the entire 4-day course over again for free.

But all of this comes at a cost. Essentially a pay-to-pass program, boot camps pump a large amount of students through a short-term, high-yield course. Boot camps may only be a viable option if time is more valuable to you than money.

Reason #2: Boot camps are inconvenient.

Unless you live in a large urban area where a course is offered, the 4-day boot camp will usually require travel and hotel accommodations. For most project managers with jobs and families, dropping their responsibilities for four days is not only inconvenient, it’s impossible. Work and life does not stand still (or even slow down!) just because you have an important exam to pass. Most project managers require – and work best with – a study schedule that fits with their lifestyle instead of interrupting it.

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Reason #3: Boot camps focus on memorization.

As you are already aware, the PMP exam is based on concepts from the PMBOK® Guide. Specific principles include communication, cost management, human resources, integration, procurement, quality, risk, scope, and time management. The material is broad and the data is often in-depth. So, how do boot camps ensure you thoroughly master and understand these concepts in a mere four days? They don't.

There is absolutely not enough time in four days to extensively cover concepts and in-depth data. Instead, boot camps focus on rote memorization of high-yield material. While they may be able to guarantee a "first-time pass", boot camps cannot and do not offer an education that will help you with project management beyond the exam.

Reason #4: Boot camps have limited schedules and openings.

As noted above, the inconvenience of boot camps is often rooted in their location and need for travel away from home. On top of that, many boot camps have limited space and are only able to offer sessions at certain times of the year. If you thought taking time off from work and your family would be difficult, try doing it around their schedule instead of your own. The only available times may be during a busy work crunch or stressful family situation. At best, this may be inconvenient. Often, it is impossible. Project managers with home and work commitments will usually have better success with a study schedule or workshop that still allows them to fulfill their home and work responsibilities.

Reason #5: Boot camp training focuses on passing the exam instead of teaching concepts.

The material on the PMP exam is broad and in-depth. If you are not already familiar with concepts covered in the PMBOK® Guide, boot camps will not be able to help you in a mere four days. As noted in their "guarantee", boot camps only promise to help you pass the exam. They do not offer an education that will guide or assist you through your career.

One of the secret ingredients to doing well on the PMP exam is understanding of project management principles, both individually and how they work together. Instead of focusing on competency, boot camps rely on rote memorization of high-yield material. While this may result in a high first-time pass rate, it does not ensure that the project manager has learned any skills or gained experience that will help their career beyond exam day.

In conclusion, if your goal is to simply pass the PMP exam without learning new techniques to improve your project management skills, then a boot camp may be just what you're looking for. If you are unemployed, single without familial commitments, have more money than you know what to do with, and are simply looking to add credentials to your CV, then a 4-day PMP boot camp will probably serve you well. However, if you are genuinely interested in becoming a better project manager on the road to excelling on the PMP exam, then a more in-depth study approach is what you want.

Successfully passing the PMP Exam and achieving lasting and positive effects on your project management skills involves daily study time for 10 to 12 weeks. Individuals that choose to study on their own should read the PMBOK® Guide twice, utilize an additional PMP self-study preparation book, listen to a PMP Exam Podcast, and tackle as many sample exam questions as possible. *(continues on next page)*

PMI Changes PMP Certification Exam Effective August 31, 2011

Denise Boeding, Director of Certifications

The Project Management Institute recently announced that it is making updates to the questions on the PMP Certification exam based on updates to the professional role of a PMP recently found in PMI's Role Delineation Study (RDS). The RDS is conducted every 5-7 years to ensure that the PMP credential is evolving to meet the demands of the profession and is "contemporary". The RDS also complies with the PMP accreditation under the ISO 17024 standard.

Approximately 30% of the content on the PMP examination is new or has substantial changes to reflect the role as defined by RDS. Included in the changes is the testing of the Professional and Social Responsibility content area (domain 6). The RDS revealed that professional and social responsibility is integrated into all of the work of project management. Therefore, these topics will now be tested across all content areas instead of being gathered into a separate section. This emphasizes the application of PMI's Code of Ethics and Professional in each phase of the project lifecycle.

The new examination is scheduled to be released on August 31, 2011. This means that the last day to take the current PMP examination is August 30, 2011. Here are a few additional points to consider:

- The exam update does not affect the PMBOK Guide – 4th Edition. Exam takers should continue to reference the 4th Edition until a new PMBOK Guide is released, sometime in 2012.
- PMI Registered Education Providers (REPs) have been informed of the change and update schedules, as well as being provided the new Examination Content Outline in order to update their courses.
- Education and experience eligibility requirements for the PMP examination remains appropriate and will not be changed.

Candidates who would like to take the current version of the examination are advised to schedule their exam early to better ensure that they are able to obtain a test date.

For further information, visit the PMI site for more information [PMI exam update](#)

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Individuals that prefer the structure of a classroom schedule should select a training class that meets for several weeks. Self-study at home will complement the in-class lectures and further solidify the information. a superior project manager along the way. Following this approach will ensure that you not only pass the exam, but become a superior project manager along the way.

About the author: Cornelius Fichtner, PMP is a noted PMP expert. He has helped over 10,000 students prepare for the PMP Exam with *The Project Management PrepCast* at <http://www.pm-prepcast.com> and *The PMP Exam Simulator* at <http://www.pm-exam-simulator.com>

PMI - Eastern Iowa Chapter Contacts

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