

**June 2003
 Vol 3 Issue 2**

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Next Chapter Meeting

**Join us Tuesday, July 8, 2003, at
 Holiday Inn, Route 495 and 20,
 Marlboro**

Time: 5:30-8:30PM

Presentation: Managing Cultural
 Differences on Global Project
 Teams

Presenter: Stephanie Heiter,
 President, HeiterConnect, Inc.



<http://www.acteva.com/go/centralmass>

Cost: \$25.00 for early registration
 and pre-payment, \$30.00 at the
 door

If you prefer not to use our online
 sign up service, please make your
 check out to:

Central Mass Chapter of PMI and
 mail to:

PMI Central Mass Chapter
 c/o Jim Baldinger
 204 Glen Street
 Marlboro, MA 01752

**Practice Standard for
 Scheduling**

Submitted by Allison Brown, Metier

Development of PMI's Practice Standard for Scheduling is officially underway. The new standard, a comprehensive set of guidelines, processes and templates recognized as industry-wide best practices, is part of the PMI Project Management Standards Program. The scheduling standard team, led by Douglas Clark, CEO of Metier, Ltd., is actively looking for PMI members interested in pioneering standardization for accurate and effective project scheduling. Volunteers will receive 20 PDU's and all other Team members will receive 15 PDU's.

Individuals interested in participating in the Practice Standard for Scheduling pas part of this team should contact Kristin Wright at 610-356-4600, ext 1143, or Kirstin.Wright@pmi.org.

Central Mass Chapter participation at ProjectWorld a success

By Barbara Karten, PMP

The Central Mass Chapter of PMI joined the other New England PMI Chapters in the ProjectWorld Exhibit Hall, June 4 & 5. We thank all of you who stopped by to say 'Hello' and look forward to seeing you at our chapter meetings.

Project Managing my Employment Transition

By Barbara Karten, PMP

We're all project managers, and we deploy these project management skills in many aspects of our lives. We manage projects at work, at home; and, we use these skills to organize many types of projects - vacations, events, and these days, many of us find ourselves project managing our 'employment transition' (job search). There are key differences managing our employment transition – first, there is no paycheck, and, second, we are solely responsible (well, maybe jointly responsible, together with spouse or significant other(s)) for managing our time, defining our goals/objectives, maintaining our professional relationships and associations, setting milestones, and monitoring our progress against these goals. There is no boss or manager approving or disapproving. This is the good news and the bad news – we own it all. But, we are project managers by profession, and this is what we do – this is our job!

I'm no expert on job searches, but I'm in transition, and thought it might be useful/interesting to explore the job search from the project management perspective. Starting out, there are a number of key tasks we must address. First, we must define the product – in the case of a job search, that would be me. In the context of 'the product', I need to identify my target job(s) – what I want to do as I go forward. I also need to identify the (job) market – I might call this the target audience, or the consumer of the product. And, I need to identify and deploy tools and

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"I took the WGA training in February and landed a full time position in March. The training and my plans to sit for the PMP exam were instrumental in me being hired." - IT Project Mgr

"I took the WGA training in November, passed the PMP exam in January and landed a six-month contract in February." -Engineer

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Member at Large: James L. McGill, PMP

■ PMI Highlights

- PMI Member since: 2/2000
- PMI Mass Bay Member since: 2/2000
- PMI CMASS Member since: 2/2003
- PMI CMASS Director of Meetings & Events since: 2/2003
- PMP Certification attained: 5/2003

■ Career Highlights

- Positions held include: Senior Project Manager, Application Development Manger
- Companies worked for include: Putnam Investments, PFPC Global Service iXL and Nypro
- Past Clients include: Chase Manhattan Bank, Bank of America, DNC, and Site 59.com

■ Education Highlights

- BSBA, Stonehill College
- Candidate for MS in IT, WPI
- Certificate in Project Management, WPI
- Certificate in Client/Server Technologies, WPI

■ Interests

- Family and Pets
- Patriots, Red Sox, Celtics
- Sports Memorabilia Collection

Meet The Board

President: *Jim Baldinger*
 Vice President: *Jim Walsh, PMP*
 Treasurer: *Gene Valois*
 Recording Secretary: *Rebecca Hagopian*
 Director of Meetings and Events: *Jim McGill, PMP*
 Director of Sponsorship: *Thomas Belanger, Acting*
 Director of Education: *Thomas Belanger*
 Director Of Communications: *Barbara Karten, PMP*

What Else Can We Do?

The board is seeking new ideas for programs and activities that will enhance the value of the Central Mass chapter to its members. Share your thoughts and ideas on how our organization helps you in your project management endeavors and what else it might do to advance your career and the profession. Reply to www.pmicmass.com/feedback.htm

Top 10 Reasons NOT to Use Project Management

(With apologies to David Letterman)

10. Our customers really love us, so they don't care if our products are late and don't work.
9. Organizing to manage projects isn't compatible with our culture, and the last thing we need around this place is change.
8. All our projects are easy, and they don't have cost, schedule, and technical risks anyway.
7. We aren't smart enough to implement project management without stifling creativity and offending our technical geniuses.
6. We might have to understand our customers' requirements and document a lot of stuff, and that is such a bother.
5. Project management requires integrity and courage, so they would have to pay me extra.
4. Our bosses won't provide the support needed for project management; they want us to get better results through magic.
3. We'd have to apply project management blindly to all projects regardless of size and complexity, and that would be stupid.
2. I know there is a well-developed project management body of knowledge, but I can't find it under this mess on my desk.
1. We figure it's more profitable to have 50% overruns than to spend 10% on project management to fix them.

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**Do any of these reasons sound familiar to you?
Time for some education**

Kudos & Congratulations

Barbara Karten, PMP – passed PMP Certification, April, 2003 – ‘...thank goodness it's over’

Jim McGill, PMP – passed PMP Certification, April, 2003 – ‘... piece of cake...’

Rebecca Hagopian – Completed Boston Marathon - “It was my 'first-ever' marathon - my goal was to run one before age 40. My chip time (from starting line to finish) was 4 hours and 38 minutes. My overall goal was to finish in under 5 hours, so I did it, despite the hot day! Because I finished in an 'upright' position and didn't suffer from any serious injuries, I believe this one won't be my last. Yes, I think I'll do another one!”

Please send us your successes for this column in the next newsletter.

Free PDU's

IIL (International Institute for Learning) offers 1 PDU for each 1 hour webinar. Their free 1-hour virtual classes are designed to familiarize you with the learning topics as well as give you an introduction to their virtual classroom environment. In addition, most of these free webinars earn 1 PDU each!
http://www.iil.com/free_resources/fr

Ad Space Available

Highly focused distribution and modestly priced. Contact tom.belanger@pmicmass.com for details and to place your ad in this newsletter and our web site.


Can we pencil you in??

Speakers and Sponsors

By Thomas C. Belanger

If there are particular topics that you and your colleagues would particularly like to hear about, let us know. Also, if you have seen a project management speaker that stimulated you, and think the Central Mass Chapter should ask that person to speak, let us know, or ask that person to contact me.

Promoting your company by sponsoring a meeting is a cost-effective opportunity to spread the word about your company and its products and services. Would your company like to sponsor a PMI Central Mass Meeting?

Contact me at (508) 929-8126, or by email at tbelanger@worchester.edu if you would like information about speaking or sponsoring.

Meeting Schedule

The Central Mass PMI Chapter meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn in Marlboro at the intersection of Routes 495 and 20 at 5:30pm. You may register and/or pay for these meetings at www.acteva.com/go/centralmass or via the link available with the 'Acteva, Register now' button.



Chapter meetings are currently scheduled for

June 10, 2003
July 8, 2003
August 12, 2003
September 9, 2003
October 14, 2003
November 11, 2003
December 9, 2003

Board meetings are currently scheduled for

June 24, 2003
July 22, 2003
August 26, 2003
September 23, 2003
October 28, 2003
November 25, 2003
December 23, 2003

Please visit the Central Mass PMI Chapter Web site at www.pmicmass.com for more information on these and other events.

Employment Transition, con'd

techniques to bring the product and the market together. Some of these tools and techniques might include: networking, jobs boards, internet resources (good web sites), our collaterals (resume, cover letters, business cards, marketing plans, target employers), and additional education or training.

I find that defining the product (me) to be particularly challenging. It's had to identify what I want to do as I go forward, and to spin these experiences in a way that appeals to employers and hiring managers. I find that folks that know me (friends, family) and have worked with me over the years (managers, colleagues, customers) are a great resource, and likely to see my strengths and weaknesses clearly. Sometimes, just talking thru what you have done, and enjoyed helps to clarify it in your own mind.

The challenge is to combine my skills into a manageable list, that is responsive to both my interests, and the opportunities in the job market right now.

In the next newsletter, I'll write about the 'job market'. I'll identify how I target companies, and how I source job openings. Let me know if this is useful, and what information you'd like to see in this column.



A Body at Rest Tends To Remain At Rest

By Thomas C. Belanger, Director of Education and Sponsorship, Director, Center for Business and Industry Worcester State College

Several years ago I brought my daughter to a sand sculpture competition somewhere on the North Shore. There were awesome sculptures of Mickey and Minnie Mouse, many elaborate castles, ships, sea creatures, and two couch potatoes with a big bag of chips. The couch potatoes were my favorite. They were grotesquely plump. It made me think of their pattern of living. You know, a body at rest tends to remain at rest. Looking back, I think I liked that sculpture because it made me think about the pattern I was following. The sculpture changed me. Since that afternoon I have paid much more attention to keeping my mind and body in shape.

As time goes by, it is easy to repeat the same patterns every day, every week, and every month. You know the routine: turn off the clock radio, lay there for five more minutes, take a shower, eat, drive to work, work, go home, eat, relax, be with the family, tend the lawn, watch the tube, or do whatever you do when you get home. Rinse and repeat. It is a difficult pattern to break. It has been known for many years, that you should "use it or lose it". That goes for both brain cell fitness and body fitness. Want to keep the intellectual stimulation coming, and keep those gray cells firing? Come to the Central Mass Chapter monthly meetings, and take advantage of the plentiful training and educational opportunities available in the area.

Of course PMI's Network Magazine and Project Management Journal provide portable stimulation that can be enjoyed anywhere. In fact, I always have one handy for when I am stuck in traffic or when I know I have to wait for my Dentist. Working toward certification is very stimulating.

For those seeking certification, there are two levels:

- Project Management Professional (PMP).
- Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) is a steppingstone to PMP Certification.

Study Groups are the most cost-effective way to help you prepare for the PMP, or CAPM exams. Individuals who are preparing to take any of these exams will help themselves substantially by connecting with others planning for the same exam. Contact me at (508) 929-8126, or by email at tbelanger@worchester.edu if you would like to connect with a study group.

For more information about certification, go to:
http://www.pmi.org/info/PDC_CertificationsOverview.asp