



AITP

The Printout

The Nashville Chapter
of
The Association of Information
Technology Professionals

September 2008
Chapter Newsletter

TEAM BUILDING

We often work on a team and recognize that the team does not function as well as it should. We are not sure how to go about improving the team's activity and interaction. Our September program is on the subject of team building. Our speaker is recognized as a leader in this area. She is Victoria Davis, Vice President Strategic Operations for Dale Carnegie Training.

Vicki will discuss how to create a common purpose for the team and how to develop a unifying vision. She will discuss how to foster an environment of mutual support and understand the values that govern team interactions. Vicki notes that companies with engaged employees outperform others by 50 – 200%.

Vicki has given many conferences and workshops in the area of team building. She uses a very interactive style and promises that the audience will not be bored.

Vicki Has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering and a Master of Science in Manufacturing and System Engineering from the University of Michigan. She worked in the automotive industry in Supplier Quality, Product Design and Business Excellence. Her experience in program management

in the US and in Germany led her to her role as an instructor for the Product Development Process at Siemens VDO. As a member of the automotive team with Ralph Nichols Group, Inc., Vicki applies her technical expertise as an instructor of the People Side of Process Improvement, the Dale Carnegie Course, High Impact Presentations and the Sales Advantage. Vicki's thorough understanding of product development and manufacturing enables her to partner with manufacturing companies to develop their people, meet company objectives, and get results.



Vicki says that working for Dale Carnegie is fun for her; she has been with Dale Carnegie for over two years. She also enjoys playing with her two daughters, ages nine and ten. Vicki and her family live in the Brentwood area and love Nashville. Her spouse works for Nissan in the Marketing Department. They spent their last vacation in the Smokey Mountains and enjoyed swimming in the river.

Our September meeting should be a "fun" and educational one about team building. Bring your questions and your team members. Remember that this is the last meeting at the Brentwood Holiday Inn. In October we move back to the Holiday Inn-Select at Vanderbilt.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President	_____	Pg 3
Calendar of Upcoming Events	_____	Pg 5
AITP Business Information	_____	Pg 6

AITP Nashville Roster

President:	Marshall Messamore Vanderbilt University Medical Center 615/322-3647 fax: 615/343-1214 marshall.messamore@vanderbilt.edu
Vice President:	Tom Clark Star Physical Therapy (615) 591-6590 clarktw2001@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Ella McGill American General 615/749-1346 fax: 615/749-2840 Ella_McGill@agfg.com
Treasurer:	Beverly Gibson beverlygibson04@comcast.net 615/424-0135
Chapter Liaison:	Frank Reagor freagor@charter.net
Membership Director:	Joan Julius CGI joan.julius@cgi.com
Director of Programs:	Paul Saunders, CCP Saunders Systems Corp. 615/367-1717 paul@saunderssystems.com
Student Chapter Coordinator:	Dr. Gerald Marquis Tennessee State University 615/ 963-7096 gpmarquis@yahoo.com
Newsletter Director:	Robert Wright Vanderbilt University 615/322-0004 r.n.right@gmail.com
Director of Meeting Arrangements:	Mary Simpson Genesco Inc. 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775 msimpson@genesco.com
Website Coordinator:	Mike Eischen Genesco Inc. 615/367-7068 meischen@genesco.com
Director of Publicity	Open
Past President:	Mary Simpson Genesco Inc. 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775 msimpson@genesco.com
Internet Information —	Web Sites
Chapter:	http://www.aitpnashville.org
Headquarters:	http://www.aitp.org
Region 7:	http://members.tripod.com/aitpregion7

AITP
P. O. Box 22038
Nashville TN 37202

Dinner Reservation and Cancellation Policy

AITP members will be notified by electronic mail one week prior to the Chapter meeting. Reservations can be made by responding to the electronic notice or by calling **Mary Simpson at 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775** Dinner reservations can be canceled up to 24-hours prior to the meeting without cost.

Since the Chapter pays for reserved meals, No Shows will be billed at the reservation price of \$20.00 for Members, and \$30.00 for Guests.

Members are responsible for their guests' reservations. *If you are a member and have not been receiving this notification, please contact Mary Simpson at:*

615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775
msimpson@genesco.com.

September Chapter Meeting:

Holiday Inn Brentwood
760 Old Hickory Blvd (at I-65)
Brentwood, TN 37027
615-373-2600



"IT TRAINING FOR IT PROFESSIONALS"

Select Programs:

Six Sigma for Service Industries
Business Analyst Certification
Project Management
Finances for the Non-Financial Professionals
Unix — Java — Microsoft — Oracle

www.belmont.edu/tlc
TLC@mail.belmont.edu
Contact: mclanec@mail.belmont.edu
615.460.5566

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many of you may have heard that success is a journey, not a destination, but for developers like Tommy Norman, Systems Architect with the Compuware Corporation, the destination matters. At our August AITP meeting, Mr. Norman spoke about how his team's journey through the agile process leads to the desired destination—quality, useful software that provides business value. The agile process is an iterative, evolutionary approach to building software. It includes a number of methods under the umbrella of agile such as eXtreme Programming or Feature Driven Development, but Mr. Norman uses Scrum to manage his team's development work. The key components of Scrum can be boiled down to roles, artifacts, and sprints.

Scrum roles are divided into two categories, pigs and chickens. This refers to a joke about a ham and eggs breakfast... the chicken is involved, the pig is committed. The product owner, Scrum Master, and Scrum Team are "pigs" meaning they are committed to the project and are held responsible in some manner for its success. The product owner is normally the person primarily responsible for return on investment of the project. The Scrum Master can be thought of as a coach who ensures the process is followed, obstacles are removed, and the team performs assigned functions. The "chickens" are users and other stakeholders. They are involved and important to the project, but not at the same level as the "pigs."

Two of the key artifacts in the process are the product backlog and sprint backlog. The product backlog is the prioritized list of functional and non-functional requirements to be implemented. It is based on user stories which Mr. Norman described with a simple sentence, "As a <role> I want <something> so that <benefit>." This is an incredibly powerful way for users to express required system functionality and why they need it. It also facilitates dialog among users and Scrum team members. The product backlog is managed by the product owner and is directly related to the sprint backlog. The sprint backlog is a list of tasks required to turn items from the product backlog into system functionality. It is the planning document for each sprint. Each of these backlogs has an associated "burndown" chart that indicates progress against the respective backlog. Burndown charts are critical for management insight into the process.

Sprints are iterative development cycles which implement an achievable number of items from the product backlog. Each sprint starts with a planning session to build the sprint backlog. The team works through the tasks and meets daily to review results and identify impediments. The Scrum Master ensures the team stays on task and helps remove and overcome impediments. A fundamental process principle is each sprint results in production ready deliverables. Since each sprint lasts only 3 weeks for Mr. Norman and his team, it means the product owner and users get to see tangible results every 3 weeks at the Sprint Review and can adjust requirements accordingly. Another intrinsic part of each sprint is the Sprint Retrospective where Scrum team members determine how they can do better in the next sprint. These mid-journey process and product corrections help ensure everyone arrives at the right destination.

Your destination should be AITP Nashville. It's *where IT professionals meet*.

Marshall B. Messamore

AITP President

marshall.messamore@vanderbilt.edu

AITP Member Profile

GERALD MARQUIS



Our profile for this month is Dr. Gerald P. Marquis. Gerald has been a member of AITP Nashville Chapter for over 10 years and serves on the Board as the Student Chapter Coordinator. Gerald is an Associate Professor in the Business Information Systems area of Tennessee State University here in Nashville. He has been with TSU for 10 years.

Gerald's teaching expertise and areas of interest are in Systems Analysis & Design, Database Management Systems, and Information Technology applications to strategic planning. He has taught many types of IT courses ranging from COBOL to Strategic Information Systems as well as Statistics.

Gerald has a Ph.D. degree from Texas Tech University and an M.B.A., M.Ed., and B.Sc. degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit Michigan. His degrees are in the areas of Mathematics and Information Systems.

Gerald started his career as a Junior High Mathematics teacher in Detroit, Michigan. After three years he became a Scientific Programmer for the Bendix Corporation and then spent four years for the Burroughs Corporation as a Systems Programmer. Gerald's background also includes Manager of Data Processing for a bank, and Project Manager positions for Oxy Metal Industries and Federal Mogul Corporation.

Gerald moved back into the education field by joining Walsh College in Troy, Michigan as an Assistant Professor in Computer Information Systems. He spent 12 years with Walsh College, the last six years as the Chairman of the Computer Information Systems and Quantitative Methods Department. He then returned to school for his Ph.D. degree and subsequent employment with TSU.

Gerald has been very active in AITP, spearheading the Student Chapter area. He played a major role in making a success of the AITP Region 7 Student Conference in 2004 and the AITP Nashville Student Competition and Conferences held in 2005 and 2006. Gerald was the Conference Co-Chair for these events. Gerald is the Faculty Advisor for the AITP Student Chapter at TSU.

Gerald and his wife Judie live in Nashville where he enjoys growing things in his garden. Gerald also does woodworking projects in his basement shop, especially building toys for his grandchildren. When asked what he did for fun, Gerald replied that he actually enjoys working, especially database projects, but does like to cook and experiment with ethnic foods.

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2008

Date	Event	Location	Information
September 11	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Brentwood	Team Building Vicki Davis, Dale Carnegie
October 9	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Brentwood	Computer Game Development Mike Meredith, ITT
November 13	Field Trip	Ford Motor Glass Plant	George Gilbert, IT Plant Manager
December 11	Chapter Meeting (guest night)	Holiday Inn Brentwood	Patsy Hatfield Lawson, Front Porch Productions

SPEAKERS

We are always interested in good speakers to make presentations at our AITP Chapter Meetings. If you know someone who is interested in making a presentation on a topic, on their company, or company's products, please contact Paul Saunders at (615) 367-1717 or Paul@SaundersSystems.com.

Computer Room Spot Cooling Sales & Rentals



Port-A-Cool Distribution

P.O. Box 1152 Franklin, TN 37065 ♦ 615-794-8070

www.portablecooling.com

AITP NEW MEMBER

Will Stack
Consultant
505 Danville Point
Brentwood, TN 37027
will.stack@gmail.com

Welcome to our new member!

PUBLICITY PERSON

We are looking for help in promoting our AITP Chapter. We need someone to send a brief write-up to The Tennessean about our monthly meetings. You could also contact other media about our programs. You would not have to originate information, but distribute material and communicate with business publications, radio stations, TV stations, etc.

If you will help, please contact Marshall Messamore at 615-322-3647 (marshall.messamore@vanderbilt.edu) or Paul Saunders at 615-367-1717 (Paul@SaundersSystems.com).

Our speakers do not leave our chapter meetings empty-handed.



Guest speaker Tommy Norman receives his AITP umbrella from a projector-lit Program Director Paul Saunders.

AITP BOARD MEETING SUMMARY August 7, 2008

Prepared by Ella McGill

This meeting was held at VUMC Informatics.

Attendees: Gerald Marquis, Mike Eischen, Robert Wright, Mary Simpson, Marshall Messamore, Joan Julius, Beverly Gibson, Tom Clark, and Ella McGill.

1. Our contract with the Brentwood Holiday Inn expires after the September 2008 meeting. The Vanderbilt Holiday Inn Select is in the final stages of renovation. Tom, Marshall, Mary, and Ella toured the areas currently renovated and reported their findings to the board. It was the consensus of the group that moving back to the Vanderbilt location would be in the best interest of our organization. Tom made a motion to move our meeting location back to the Vanderbilt Holiday Inn Select. Mary seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. Mary will contact the catering manager and ask that she send a contract to Marshall for signing. This contract will be in effect from October 2008 until the end of 2009.
2. Paul was unable to attend the meeting, but Marshall did let us know that we have a very special speaker scheduled for our December meeting. As always, if anyone has a topic they would like information on or knows a speaker they recommend, please contact Paul Saunders.
3. The board reviewed the current financial statements.
4. Our organization is in need of a new publicity director. In absence of having anyone in that position, we discussed ways of publicizing our meetings. Marshall had the information put in the Tennessee for August. We also discussed using websites such as www.Nashville.craigslist.org to notify others of our meetings.
5. Gerald brought up the question of whether or not we should plan to award a student scholarship this year. There were no applicants for last year's scholarship. After some discussion, Marshall suggested we table the topic for now. He will follow up in a couple of weeks with an e-mail to the board for further discussion.
6. The Consumer and Electronic Showcase scheduled for September has been delayed until March. We will discuss our participation at a later date.
7. Our newsletter advertisers need to be contacted about paying for the ads. One has backed out. The ones who do not pay for the ad will be dropped. Robert is also looking for member profiles on new or existing members. Anyone interested in participation should let him know.

Joan told us that we currently have 49 members in the Nashville chapter. That is down from a high of 77. We discussed what we can do to get the message to area CIOs of what we have to offer their employees. Tom made a motion that all board members should take it upon themselves to consider the opportunity to present AITP benefits to our CIOs and IT leadership teams. Beverly seconded the motion. It was carried unanimously.

Thanks to our advertisers:

Portable Cooling & Heating Systems

Belmont University

Saunders Systems

Promote your Company's Products or Services

The Printout (this Newsletter)

Half Page	(5" x 8")	\$300 for 12 issues
Quarter Page	(4" x 5")	\$150 for 12 issues
Business Card	(2" x 4")	\$ 50 for 12 issues

Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068

AITP
P.O. Box 22038
Nashville, TN 37202
Address Correction Requested

The Printout

September 2008



MANAGERS TRAINING
in
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Need a refresher on how to run projects?

ONE ON ONE SESSIONS

Will tailor to suit your needs and schedule

**WORK WITH A PROFESSIONAL
AND IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS**

Call for information

SAUNDERS SYSTEMS

615-367-1717

P.S. Tell your boss about this.