Chapter News!

FULL HOUSE AT BINGHAMTON U. EVENT

The Binghamton University MIS Club hosted the PMI Binghamton Chapter February 18th at the ITC Center of Excellence. Chapter volunteers presented the program, “Why PMP” to describe the project management career path and encourage students to pursue a Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) credential. Anthony Olenik opened the meeting by providing an overview of the PMI Binghamton Chapter and a summary of recent programs. He then described his career path at BAE from entry level engineer to project manager and gave an overview of project management including current hiring and salary trends. This was followed by Associate Professor Sumantra Sarkar who talked about software project management skills including the ability to work successfully on cross-functional teams, having a strong background in development approaches (i.e. Scrum, waterfall, Agile) and having a deep understanding of the “business of the business”. (Continued on Page 3)
Hello again, fellow project managers! Do you realize what a unique and wonderful community of professionals we are? We make a difference across a spectrum of companies, industries, community organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions. Our skills are becoming increasingly more appreciated and sought after, and we can improve them by learning from each other and taking advantage of educational opportunities.

One group of people working hard to help facilitate this is the 2016 board of the PMI Binghamton NY chapter. Most months, we have an educational meeting for which you can earn a PDU to help maintain your PMP certification. In addition, plans are in full swing for our Third Annual Professional Development Day on Friday November 4, at Traditions at the Glen in Johnson City, NY. We’ll be sending out more information about it soon, so please save the date now!

Here are the members of the 2016 Board:

Debbie Saucke, PMP
President

Barb Waters, PMP
Professional Development Officer

Pat Shannon, PMP
Corporate Officer, Director at Large

Sumantra Sarkar, PMP
Membership/Publicity Officer

Tom D’Onofrio
Programs Officer

Rick Sutphin, PMP
Communications Officer

Rob Bryla, PMP
Information Technology Officer

Lee Ellen Hollenbeck, PMP
Finance Officer

Carla Sives, PMP
Certification Officer

John Clark, PMP
Past President

You are welcome to get in touch with any of us, for any reason! Just go to http://pmi-binghamton.org/index.php/who-we-are/chapter-board and our email addresses are all listed. We look forward to hearing from you!
MARCH CHAPTER MEETING WRAP-UP:
HOW TO DISAGREE AGREEABLY

A familiar speaker, Diana Wolgemuth, Director of Professional Development for Dale Carnegie of CNY presented at the March Chapter Meeting on March 24th at Brothers 2 restaurant. Diana presented at a chapter meeting last year and periodically holds Dale Carnegie sessions in the Binghamton area.

Diana’s presentation this year, “How to Disagree Agreeably,” focused on viewing differences of opinions as opportunities, not a threats. The presentation noted that we should consider the source of our opinions and whether they’re based on evidence. As Diana pointed out, evidence “defeats doubt and lends to credibility.” Several examples of evidence were presented including analogies, testimonials and statistics.

Suggestions were also provided as to how to respond to differences of opinion in a respectful and non-threatening manner. Body language, facial expression and tone of voice were also discussed as having an impact on how our message is conveyed. Five principles were provided as a guide to keep people on track during potential disagreements.

If you’d like to learn more about the training available from Dale Carnegie you can contact Diana at Diana_wolgemuth@dalecarnegie.com.

BU EVENT—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Past Binghamton PMI President, John Clark, then described how to develop a project management career including the various PMI certifications available to enhance skills development. In particular, the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) is well suited to students and entry level professionals just starting their careers who don’t yet have the prerequisite project management hours to apply to take the exam for the Project Management Professional (PMP) credential.

Next up was the project management round table. Four seasoned project managers answered questions about the profession. The panel consisted of Dr. William E. Bernier, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of ChromaNanoTech, LLC and Research Professor in the Chemistry Department at Binghamton University, Pat Shannon, retired and formerly Chief Information Officer for BAE Systems Platform Solutions, Steve MacQuarrie who has worked at five firms as an engineer, Marianne Kaufmann, Project Manager and Senior Technology Consultant for The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC), Anthony Olenik, Engineering and Project Management at BAE Systems and panel facilitator, Rick Sutphin, Project Engineering Manager at BAE Systems.

The Binghamton PMI Chapter would like to thank the Binghamton University MIS Club for hosting this event and for Dr. Bernier and Dr. Sarkar for helping to coordinate the event.
HOW 6 REAL MANAGERS GET A WORK/LIFE BALANCE
Reprinted with permission from Elizabeth Harrin’s blog at http://www.girlsguidetopm.com/

Posted: 25 Mar 2016 02:54 AM PDT

Work/life balance comes up time and time again when I speak to people. We’re all desperate for a bit more time in the day, either to fit in more work or to fit in more slippers-and-TV time or something inbetween. For me, an extra hour in the day would probably just mean more pushing Thomas trains around the wooden track.

Read on to see the advice that 6 real project managers have for getting a meaningful work/life balance. For me, the tip from David about how you treat your loved ones was an eye opener but let’s start with some advice from Helen…

HELEN CUREL
Be clear where the lines are drawn. If you’re working, you’re working, so try not to get distracted with personal stuff. The same applies for home life, if you’re at home with your partner and kids then your attention should be there and not checking emails on your phone in the middle of lunch.

CLAIRE SEZER
I work three long days a week. The weekend is for my family, the other two days in the week are for my emails, my housework and my chores. There are always competing pressures however many days you work. Be efficient. Use time effectively. Delegate more but stay in control.

DAVID
I think most project managers are to a certain extent control freaks and find this difficult, but...

- All things are not worth doing.
- All things worth doing are not worth doing well.
- All things worth doing well need not be done by you yourself – there might be someone much more capable around.
- Respect your team members’ time off. A manager who sends lots of email in the evenings gives a subliminal message that every team member needs to be available all of the time. “Do unto others…”
- Try not to check your email for just one evening and see if the world survives. Perhaps the exercise can be repeated another evening?
- If you have to check your email, do you also have to reply to each item immediately? Perhaps the next morning will do just as well?
- Try switching your cellphone off when you get home from work. Perhaps the switch can be used to switch it on the next morning? You never know until you’ve tried!
- Try not to treat your loved ones worse than your business contacts. A sponsor can often deal with rejection much better than a child can.

MONICA BORRELL
Sometimes it’s hard. I get so into my work. My favourite tactics are time-boxing and prioritization. These are project management techniques that are also very useful in making sure you stay sane and balanced as a person. I also have recently gotten into meditation and have learned to turn the computer off at least an hour before bedtime.
The 20/80 rule. 20% percent of the work gets 80% of the result. Time and again I have found that 80% is easily good enough and pushing for the extra is not worth it. Why are managers that don’t seem to do very much so successful? This is why. They don’t waste time on perfection and they spend the rest of the time building relationships.

There are, of course exceptions. Some organisations are really fussy with documentation and if this is not your forte then you need to work at it. However I once worked to rule for a while when I was fed-up at work and found that not only was the project just as successful, it actually seemed to improve performance.

Perfection can make things worse and just creates unnecessary work. What this rule means is that by not being a perfectionist you can manage twice or three times as much as a perfectionist and achieve the perception of three times the progress.

Delegate. Staff love to be involved, especially younger staff that see the chance at some good experience. This is linked to the point above as the only way to achieve perfection, as you define it, is to do it yourself. Let go and let someone else do it differently.

Most of the time, arrive a little early and leave a little late (15 minutes each way). Then managers will more than happy for you to occasionally leave early. If you are always in late managers will assume that you are not pulling your weight and give you more to do. If you are always in late managers will assume that you are not pulling your weight. Occasionally take work home but don’t make it the norm. Projects tend to be heavy on the project manager at the start. If you have multiple projects all starting at once then you will have to put the hours in. However don’t assume that managers will notice, or even care, if you are doing this. Most will not.

They say that working late is like wetting yourself in a dark room – You get a nice warm feeling and nobody notices. It is true though. Working long hours does not typically get you promoted. I have met perfectionists who always take work home every night thinking that managers value the work they do only to get upset when a promotion goes to someone else. If you have a manager that consistently pushes you to work too late or long hours – leave. There are plenty of good organisations out there that love hard working, capable people that enjoy life.

LORRAINE CHAPMAN

I have been very lucky as my spouse is very understanding about my work and what I do like as a profession, therefore it is give and take about balancing out my working and personal life. It can be an all-encompassing career, with highs and lows, but very satisfying.

However, when you have down time, you need to make the most of it. Try and work around projects with holidays as it is very disruptive to a project to bring in another project manager (unless it is a major building project). Taking time out and a balance can be achieved, however, it does take working at it, like any relationship (personal or professional).

Being a project manager is not something for the feint hearted, and sometimes you need to grow an extra skin – but it’s part of the charm of the work. There are times when you do need to take a break – do take that break; and you will come back bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and ready for anything that is thrown your way.
APRIL CHAPTER MEETING FEATURES DR. ANGELO MAISTRANGELO

At the April Chapter meeting, we had the pleasure of Dr. Angelo Mastrangelo give a presentation on Project Management Leadership from a Total Quality Management Perspective. Dr. Mastrangelo has a Ph.D. in Organizational Studies from the College of Business Administration, University at Albany, SUNY and over thirty-two years of leadership experience in all aspects of the beverage industry including former owner and CEO of Adirondack Beverages. He is currently a Business School professor for M.B.A. programs and Undergraduate Programs at Binghamton University and the University at Albany.

With Dr. Mastrangelo’s extensive experience, the audience resonated well with the topic of Total Quality Management that was presented. As Dr. Mastrangelo pointed out, PMI certifies the person much like TQM which certifies the process; same concept. Dr. Mastrangelo provided some great perspectives on how each one of us can be entrepreneurs whether it be for our own business or for the companies we work for, big and small. Lastly, another key takeaway was that whatever we do with our work, product or service it all starts with the customer. We need to understand what the customers’ needs are and fulfill those needs and continually look at ways of improving.
OBJECTIVES

- Advance the mission and objectives of the Project Management Institute within the Binghamton area.
- Develop a growing and committed membership of local Project Management Professionals.
- Promote Project Management principles and techniques with local businesses, universities and professional associations.
- Support and enhance Professionalism within Project Management by developing and providing quality programs based on local Project Management needs.
- Create and deliver an educational program that strengthens local Project Manager skills and supports the PMI Certification Program.

PMI BINGHAMTON NY CHAPTER, INC.

Project Management Institute (PMI) is the world’s leading not-for-profit professional association for the project, program and portfolio management profession, with over 2.9 million members. The PMI Binghamton, NY Chapter was chartered in October of 1998 to provide a forum for Project Management professionals, to promote the Project Management Institute through networking with other project managers, to share project experiences, to provide and receive training and to support Project Management professionals in their certification efforts.

Chapter meetings are held monthly except during summer months. Meetings include dinner followed by presentations by experienced project managers and lecturers on topics of interest to other project managers or those interested in project management. Topics have included the PM Certification process, the PMI Exam, and a number of specific projects from area businesses that demonstrate the use of project management principles and techniques.

Our mission: Improve our community and enhance the professionalism of project managers by teaching project management principles / techniques and promoting them with local businesses, educational institutions, professional associations, and other organizations.

We believe Project Management can help ensure success!

PMI, BINGHAMTON CHAPTER
518 HOOPER ROAD - PMB #259
ENDWELL, NY 13760

Visit our Website at:
http://www.pmi-binghamton.org/

Contact:
communications@pmi-binghamton.org