

Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA®

Second Quarter Newsletter 2011



I-BADD 2011 Review

Friday, May 13, 2011, was the big day for this year's I-BADD at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. The location and venue were excellent and the event was successful because of the level of commitment of everyone involved in both planning and attending the one-day development opportunity. This year's I-BADD consisted of record attendance from participants who came together as a BA community to network with other BA chapter attendees, as well as to meet new people in preparation to take their career to the next level...this year's theme for the development day.

The Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA® would like to thank everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored, and set up vendor booths in order to make the day fun and educational for all! Here's what the day looked like at-a-glance; the morning started out with registration where participants received a goody bag full of vendor give-aways for BAs to take home or back to the office with them. Followed by registration was a networking breakfast where attendees were able to talk with fellow BAs and vendors in the atrium area of the hotel.

Later in the morning, the event kicked off with opening remarks from the President of the Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA®, Heather Mylan-Mains. Heather introduced the opening keynote speaker, Bob Prentiss, who spoke to the group about "Driving Success by Finding the BA Leader in You!" Bob's presentation was inspiring and got the day off to an energetic start before everyone took a short break followed by the morning break-out sessions where attendees had the option to choose one of the three tracks: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Within each track there were several topics offered from well-known and respected presenters within the BA community at the local, regional, and national level. For anyone who missed seeing a particular speaker, the goody bag contained a flash drive with all of

**Becoming a Member is as Easy as
1, 2, and 3!**

1. Become a Member of IIBA™...



**2. Become a Member of the
Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA®...**



**3. Enjoy local chapter benefits
once you are an international
and Central Iowa Chapter member.**

**Details about membership are located under
the Membership tab on the
Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA® website:**

www.centraliowaiiba.org

the speakers' presentations – a great value for those who attended I-BADD 2011.

A lunch buffet was catered by the hotel and while folks enjoyed lunch and chatted among each other their table, Kupe Kupersmith delighted the audience with an entertaining lunch-time skit radio hour. After lunch, participants attended the afternoon break out session of their choice followed by an afternoon break with delicious treats to keep the crowd alert for the closing keynote speaker, Kupe Kupersmith, who talked to the group about “The BA Life Beyond Charts, Diagrams and Documents,” a great way to end the day with gainful insight that every BA can use in his or her toolkit.

Mark your calendars now for next year's I-BADD 2012 for Friday, May 11th. Details about next year's I-BADD will be posted to the chapter website closer to the event. The Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA[®] board and I-BADD planning committee look forward to next year's development day and encourage members who are interested in being on the I-BADD 2012 planning committee to contact a board member at Contact@CentrallowaIIBA.org.

Interested in Getting Your CCBA™ or CBAP®?

For details about each certification, click on the links below or contact a Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA[®] board member at Contact@CentrallowaIIBA.org.

Junior-level BA Certification:

[Certification of Competency in Business Analysis](#) (CCBA™)

Senior-level BA Certification:

[Certified Business Analyst Professional](#) (CBAP®)

Best wishes as you strive toward your goal of becoming certified in what you do best every day! You're also helping to support the IIBA™ **Mission:** *To develop and maintain standards for the practice of business analysis and for the certification of its practitioners.*

Honorable mention goes to Ann Stough, Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA[®] member, and recently-certified CBAP®.

Congratulations Ann on earning your CBAP®!

See the BA Corner on the next page, featuring Ann Stough, to learn more about her accomplishments and read her CBAP® testimonial.



Prize Drawing Winners at I-BADD 2011



BA Corner Features Ann Stough, CBAP®

Ann Stough CBAP®, is a Senior Business Analyst with Buccaneer, a Vangent company, and works within the healthcare industry. She is an enthusiastic supporter of the Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA®, and she attends as many monthly meetings as possible, has volunteered for I-BADD for three consecutive years, and has enjoyed serving on the board for a short period as Director of Membership.

Ann worked in desktop support and infrastructure technology for 10 years in the Des Moines area prior to landing an opportunity in software. Through co-workers, she was introduced to the Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA® and immediately found enlightenment, industry best practices, and BAs to network with locally. She is grateful to belong to and support an active chapter, which has provided the foundation and motivation to achieve her CBAP® designation.

She credits participation in the fall 2010 BABOK® Study Group, organized by the Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA®, as a significant factor in her successful first attempt in sitting for the exam. Ann recommends consulting the BABOK® regularly as part of analyst's day-to-day activities. Using the BABOK® instead of attempting to read it cover-to-cover results in exposure without being overwhelmed.

Ann's advice to those contemplating sitting for the exam is to know the BABOK® better than the back of your hand as the saying goes. Her opinion is that any singular sentence in the guide could be on the test, so skimming will not be helpful to those looking to shortcut study time.

Upcoming Six Sigma One-Day Workshop for Members

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Members may attend the Six Sigma Workshop for \$50.00 on July 22, 2011. Please see the Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA® website to sign up. Members will get an excellent introduction to Six Sigma, Process Improvement, and the Project Lifecycle, which will be presented by Mary Ducar, with Your Clear Next Step, LLC.



Mary Ducar
Presents
Six Sigma Workshop
July 22, 2011

Mary will inform the group about what Six Sigma, Project Management, and Business Analysis have in common. She will tell you more about the talk about belt color. Come attend this all day workshop to gain understanding of process improvement methodologies and tools like Six Sigma. In addition, learn how these various methodologies can be integrated the Project Management and Business Analysis disciplines and knowledge areas. Be prepared to walk away with tools and techniques that you can apply immediately into your daily work.

Improve Your Communication Through Improvisation!

Kupe Kupersmith will be presenting a one-day session on

Improving Communication Through Improvisation!

A highly interactive and fun session that focuses on key improvisation lessons that will help you be a more attentive and flexible business analyst and project manager. You will walk away with lessons to help you stay in the present, temporarily suspend judgment, keep conversations moving forward and listen generously.

Session Objectives

- ✓ The ability to think on your feet and keep a conversation moving forward
- ✓ Learn lessons that will help you be an advocate for your stakeholders
- ✓ Gain confidence and trust in yourself and others

Session Information

Date: September 14, 2011

Time: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (lunch included)

Location: GuideOne Insurance, 1111 Ashworth Rd.,
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Sign up on the website at: www.centraliowaiiba.org.

Please register soon as seating may be limited!



Kupe Kupersmith

Presents

***Improving Your Communication
Through Improvisation!***

September 14, 2011

GuideOne Insurance
1111 Ashworth Rd.
West Des Moines, IA

What is Systems Thinking?

How many times have you been on project where you wonder, “How on earth do we get to this point?” Whether it is a process that’s more complex than it needs to be or a system that has so many band aids that it’s inefficient. Systems Thinking provides the ability to deal effectively with just these types of problems and raises our thinking to the level at which BA’s create the results they want as individuals even in these difficult situations where there is complexity, great numbers of interactions and the absence or ineffectiveness of solutions that should be obvious.

Paula Bell is a Business Analyst, mentor and coach known for consistently producing exceptional work, providing guidance to aspiring business analysts (including those that just want to sharpen their skills), as well as, providing creative and strategic ways to build relationships for successful projects. With 14 years in project roles to include business analyst, requirements manager, technical writer, project manager, developer, test lead and implementation lead), Paula has experience in a variety of industries to include media, courts, carpet manufacturing, banking and mortgage.

Join Paula and your fellow BAs on July 28, 2011, to learn more about Systems Thinking during the July Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA® monthly meeting located at Wells Fargo, 7001 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines, IA, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Lunch begins promptly at 11:00 AM and the presentation will be from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Please register for this event through the Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA® website.

IIBA CIC Newsletter Ideas and Suggestions

We want to hear from you regarding newsletter topic suggestions. What would you like to know more about or share with your local BA community members? For ideas and suggestions, please send an email to contact@centraliowaiiba.org.



Paula Bell

Presents

Systems Thinking

July 28, 2011

Wells Fargo
7001 Westown Parkway
West Des Moines, IA

Get Involved.

Make a Difference.

Be a Volunteer.

Volunteering opportunities with the Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA® are listed on the website. The following committees need someone like you:

- **Communications**
- **Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA® Website**
- **Membership**
- **Monthly Meetings**
- **Treasurer**

We're waiting to hear from YOU! Contact@CentrallowaiIBA.org

BA Resources

IIBA™ Website: www.theiiba.org

Central Iowa Chapter of IIBA® Website: www.centraliowaiiba.org

Modern Analyst Website: www.modernanalyst.com

Business Analyst Times Website: www.batimes.com

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