

## IIBA Informant

### News from the Denver Chapter of the IIBA

June 15, 2014

#### In This Issue

Upcoming Events

President Letter

MS Events

Educational Article

National News

Study Group

Membership News

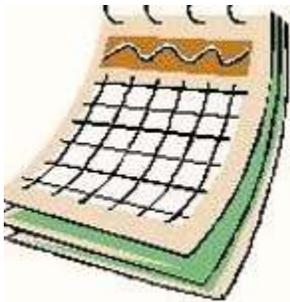
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#### Dear Business Analyst,

If you enjoy reading this newsletter and think that other Business Analysts, Project Managers, or Directors in your organization might enjoy it as well, it's easy to share. Just forward it to your colleagues.

Did someone forward this newsletter to you? Would you like to receive upcoming issues of this newsletter and learn more about IIBA and the Business Analysis profession? Just click on the **Join Our Mailing List** link on the [IIBA Denver Chapter website](#).

#### Upcoming Meeting



#### July IIBA Denver Chapter Meeting

**Date: Wednesday July 16:**

5:30 - 6:00 - Check In, Networking, Food  
6:00 - 6:30 - Announcements, Chapter Business  
6:30 - 8:00 - Presentation

**Topic:** The Human Metric & Mind Mapping

**Presenter:** Trent Leopold

**Location:** National MS Society, 900 South Broadway, Denver

**Cost:** There are two levels of membership: IIBA National and IIBA Denver Chapter. The cost is free for members of the Denver Chapter. The cost is \$10 for non-members of the Denver chapter.. Snacks generously provided by our sponsor MODIS.

[Register here.](#)

This timely, dynamic presentation illustrates and teaches the importance of examining the

human metric and mind mapping in contemporary business analysis. Attendees will see emerging science and technologies while gaining an understanding of belief system dynamics. Practical tools and techniques will be shared as well as an in-depth examination of human perception and linguistics. The practical application of mind mapping techniques for contemporary business analysis will also be presented, and each participant will have a meaningful takeaway to use in the practice and share with their practitioners. This presentation is suited for all levels of business analysis and project management.

Trent Leopold presented The Human Metric & Mind Mapping earlier this year at BAWORLD Dallas. Trent has more than 15 years of practical business analysis experience in various roles for U.S. private firms and governments. Trent holds an advanced degree in Managerial Science, and an advanced certification in project management. Leopold's experience includes serving as a director for one of America's major corporations. His history includes actively participating in a wide array of practical business analysis endeavors for for-profit and non-profit entities as well as managing multiple projects of various sizes. Trent is a member of the National Institutes of Health Institutional Review Board, engaged in neuroscience research. He is an IIBA & PMI member. Trent is a licensed aircraft pilot and has been married to his wife for more than 20 years.

### Letter from the President

by Monte Malenke

With warmer weather finally here, I hope everyone is getting a chance to enjoy being outside again. We had one of our largest chapter meetings on a very pleasant evening in May with about 50 attendees and a great presentation by one of our own, Michelle Kahler. The new location at the National MS Society's wonderful new building is just a perfect fit for us - many thanks to them! We had about a dozen or so new members from Cabela's in Sydney, Nebraska join and attend the meeting, so a big welcome to all the Cabela's folks! Now, none of us can complain about our drive to the meetings anymore!

Our next meeting promises to be another great opportunity for networking and professional development with a presentation on Human Metric & Mind Mapping by Trent Leopold. Be a part of the growing momentum and join us for this meeting on Wednesday July 16th. Bring a co-worker or other Business Analyst colleague and spread the word.

You will also note an article in this newsletter about the Building Business Capability 2014 conference in Ft. Lauderdale, which is the official conference of the IIBA. This could be a great professional development and training opportunity for you, so check it out.

Also, you will want to start planning to attend our fall networking event, which we hope to have finalized in the next couple of weeks. This will be at the end of September or in early October. This is an excellent opportunity to socialize and network with your Business Analysis friends and colleagues, and enjoy a some good food as well.

Enjoy the summer and be safe!

### Upcoming MS Events

by Duanyelle Perry

The Denver chapter is actively involved in working with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Below is a list of upcoming summer events:

#### **Bike MS**

It's not too late to be a part of the MS150! You can sign up for either the two day bicycle ride or the one day ride in Ft. Collins. The dates for this is June 28th and 29th. If you have interest, e-mail us at [MS150@denver.iiba.org](mailto:MS150@denver.iiba.org) or [click here](#) for more information.

## Hike MS

Strap on your boots, fill up your water bottles and grab your friends and family - it's time once again to Hike! Join us this summer as we climb our way to a cure for MS in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. With Hike routes varying from 2-14 miles, there's a route for the whole family and we'll be there every step of the way.

Click [here](#) to join the IIBA Denver Hikers Team on July 26th, Keystone Resort. For more information about the Hike MS Denver, click [here](#).

## Muckfest MS Denver

Fellow IIBA members, let's muck it a mile high at MuckFest MS Denver. We can run, swing, slosh, climb and laugh our way through a 5K course of incredible obstacles and muddy pits, trenches and craters. It's not just about the fun, there's also a mission behind the muck: 100% of your fundraising dollars go back to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Have a blast and make a difference!

Click [here](#) to join the IIBA Denver MuckFest Team September 13th, Music Mountain Amphitheater in Larkspur. For more information about the MuckFest MS Denver, click [here](#).

## Thank You MODIS!

As a global provider of IT staffing services, MODIS connects the very best IT professionals to great opportunities at leading companies. And we do it every single day - for both temporary and permanent assignments and across virtually all industries. We use our insight, flexibility and expanded resources to anticipate the needs of leading tech companies and help them make exceptional connections with top tech talent.

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## Educational Article

From International Chapter Newsletter

Most projects have well-defined roles and responsibilities that have been formalized in what is known as a Responsibility Assignment Matrix or RAM. This RAM identifies and informs the project's team members as well as the sub-team members such as the Testing Team, Design Team, and Development Team. This team is made up of business visionaries, subject matter experts, users and various other team members - depending on what you are eliciting, analyzing, verifying or validating. This article highlights the ten elements that I have been using for many years now to form my requirements team and keep them focused and motivated. Click [here](#) to view the full article.

## IIBA National News

IIBA would like to remind everyone about three events:

- The IIBA annual general meeting is Tuesday June 24th at 5 pm MDT. To register, [click here](#). Board of Directors (national) voting will be open for 48 hours after the meeting.

- There is still time to review BABOK v3. To register, [click here](#).
- Does your company have training dollars? Consider a trip to the annual IIBA Building Business Capability (BBC) conference that is in Florida this year in November. Check out this great learning and career development opportunity. Early bird pricing ends June 20th. For information and to register, [click here](#).

## Companies Seeking BAs

Are you following the chapter's Linked In community? New job opportunities are posted there when information is available.

## Certification Study Group

by Mary Anne McSweeney, CBAP

The IIBA Denver Chapter CBAP® certification study group began on Wednesday, April 9th. It continues on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm until September 10, 2014. This is a virtual study group, so there is no need to drive anywhere to meet as we will be connecting via web conferencing. The goal of this study group will be to cover the complete BABOK in preparation for taking the exam. So far, 23 people signed up for these sessions.

[Click here for more information.](#)

New members are welcome even if you missed the earlier sessions. And there will be a new sessions starting in the Fall. If you are interested in joining either group, please email [CBAPStudyGroup@denver.iiba.org](mailto:CBAPStudyGroup@denver.iiba.org).

## Membership News

by Susan Futey

### Welcome new Denver Chapter members!

Chris Adamson  
Janet Campos  
Cher Ping Dotson  
Michael DuBose  
Leah Giambartolomei  
Terry Haun  
Dustin Heinrichs  
Julie Matthews

Ojo Busayo  
Jonathan Powers  
Brooke Schumacher  
Anthony Shawd  
Scott Swanson  
Zachary Thomas  
Amanda Tooley  
Tom Towle

### Active Member Count: 96

Welcome to our new Membership Committee volunteers who helped with registration at the May event!

Alan Cavin  
Evelene Kirby

### Not a member yet but interested in joining the IIBA Denver Chapter?

You'll find that it is a great way to network, share business analysis knowledge and experience, and learn about new techniques and processes. Best of all, the membership is just **\$25/year!** [Join now!](#)

Benefits of being a local chapter member:

- Attend chapter meetings free or at reduced cost.
- Participate in members-only offers such as volunteer opportunities at BA World.
- Participate in Denver Chapter elections (as candidates or as voters)
- Get to wear a snazzy name badge at the meetings!

Did you know that if you are an IIBA (International Organization) member, instead of paying \$10 per meeting, you can pay an annual membership fee of \$25 and attend all meetings **free**? That's a bargain! *Take advantage of this deal today.*

It is important to know that you do have to be a member of the IIBA in order to join the IIBA Denver Chapter. Joining IIBA can be done through their website at [www.iiba.org](http://www.iiba.org). [Membership benefits](#) include:

- Access to a free copy of the [Business Analysis Body of Knowledge® \(BABOK® Guide\)](#).
- Free access to the [Online Library](#) of more than 300 books.
- Knowledge sharing and networking opportunities through the [IIBA Community Network](#).
- Access to exclusive IIBA monthly publications such as the [IIBA BA Connection monthly newsletter](#).
- Eligibility to join a local [IIBA Chapter](#).
- Access to a free copy of the [Business Analysis Competency Model](#).
- Access to [IIBA Webinars](#) on a range of professional development topics.
- Job search capabilities using [Career Center](#).

If you have any questions about membership or renewal, please feel free to send an email using the [Contact Us](#) link on the IIBA Denver Chapter website.

Hope to see you at the July meeting.

## Congrats!

Newest Colorado Certified Business Analysis Professional is:

- Michelle Kahler, CBAP

## Meeting Schedule for the Rest of 2014

Because of the new location, some meeting dates must be moved to a Monday. Here's the schedule for the rest of the year:

- July 16 (Wednesday)
- September 15 (**Monday**)
- November 19 (Wednesday)

## Do You Need Help With Your CBAP or CCBA Application or your recertification forms?

### Certification Tips

Denver Chapter member (and May meeting speaker) Michelle Kahler took the CBAP test in May and passed! Below are a few lessons that she learned and would like to forward on to you (in order of what was most useful):

- Use [Watermark Learning's](#) online study tool - The BEST study aid by far with several of the practice questions very close to what the exam had. A GREAT investment!
- About a month before your exam, begin memorizing the six knowledge areas and associated tasks and a few times a week, start writing them all down in order, on one

page a paper. When you take the exam, take 10 minutes up front to write this down as you've practiced and refer to this list throughout the exam.

- Be familiar with the "elements" associated with each knowledge area task and the techniques.
- Start memorizing inputs into the knowledge area tasks.

### **Need Help?**

Need other tips on completing your application? Tips on applying for recertification? Debbie Rasor, can answer your questions, review your application, and offer feedback on it before you submit it. She can be contacted at [debrador@yahoo.com](mailto:debrador@yahoo.com).

## **Get Involved**

### **Joining IIBA Denver Chapter Committees**

Do you want to support local Business Analysts, the profession, and increase visibility to your company? The Denver chapter is looking for help on numerous committees. **There is currently an opening for Corporate Programs.** If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please respond to [President@denver.iiba.org](mailto:President@denver.iiba.org).

### **Endorsing and Recognizing the CBAP and CCBA®**

The IIBA Denver Chapter is continuing to support the CBAP as the highest designation in the field of business analysis. CBAPs must meet requirements for experience, education, knowledge, skill, and ethics. The IIBA is looking for organizations that support the CBAP designation, and we would love to see strong company support right here in Colorado! If your organization reimburses you for CBAP exam fees, recognizes the CBAP or CCBA as a professional certification, promotes the certification as part of its professional development goals, or otherwise endorses the designation, please let us know!

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Rasor, CBAP  
Associate Editor: Jay Galecki

If you have a contribution to make to the IIBA Informant, please email us at [editor@denver.iiba.org](mailto:editor@denver.iiba.org).

If you are interested in advertising BA-related services in the IIBA Informant, please email us at [info@denver.iiba.org](mailto:info@denver.iiba.org).

**Produced by the Denver Chapter of the IIBA**

### **President (Interim)**

Monte Malenke

### **Finance Committee**

VP - Finance and Treasurer: Felicia Arambula

### **Education Committee**

VP - Education: Heidi McLaughlin

### **Marketing Committee**

VP-Marketing: Duanyelle Perry

Director - Corporate Programs: open

### **Membership Committee**

VP-Membership Services: Susan Futey

### **Communications Committee**

VP - Communication: Grant Warden

**Technology Committee**

AVP-Technology: Bill Kennedy

**Events Committee**

VP -Events: Debra Urban

The International Institute of Business Analysis is a non-profit organization for Business Analyst professionals. The goal of the local Denver Chapter is to support IIBA by (1) advancing the role of the Business Analyst as a recognized profession, (2) support opportunities for members to network with, and gain knowledge from, seasoned BA practitioners as well as industry and government leaders, (3) provide access for members to a formal "knowledge base" as well as forums for sharing expertise, expressing professional opinions and building a reputation within the industry, (4) provide pathways to learn about business analysis best practices, and (5) obtain and sustain a level of financial security, sustainability, and autonomy at the local level.