WMBA Alumni Association
https://broad.msu.edu/alumni/wmba

Board of Directors

Executive Directors:
President: Sean Whelan (2009)
Vice President: Matthew Moberly (2007)
Secretary: Valentina Djokaj (2002)
Treasurer: Andrew Sadler (2009)

Board Members:
Class of 1999:
Marc Johnson
Class of 2003:
Richard Isaacs
Class of 2004:
Phil Harwood
Class of 2005:
Lea Ammerman
Joel Colombo
Kathy Georgopoulos
Jim Harmer
Class of 2007:
Rochelle Rizzi
Class of 2008:
Anand Gopalakrishnan
Michelle Hernandez
Class of 2009:
Sarah Post
Chadwick Taylor
Lori Haindl Torres
Karel Williams

Thoughts from WMBA/EMBA Alumni

Project Management 101: 6 Ways To Derail a Project

Gary Vartanoff,
Vice President of Operations at ePrize

Successfully executing a project is a topic that’s been well covered in books and on the web, but I’ve found there are 6 things you can do that will inevitably take your project off the rails.

1. Don’t identify the universe of activities

When you are scoping a project there are often ancillary tasks that should be scheduled in addition to just writing code. Do you plan on testing...

Events

2012 AMP/EMBA/W MBA Golf Classic
Save the Date Info
Date: Wednesday, October 3rd
Where: Forest Lake Country Club
Birmingham, MI
To Register: www.events.org/2012MSUGolfClassic

Class of 2014 – Residency Week begins!
July 28, 2012

Find other events at:
https://broad.msu.edu/alumni/events

Weekend MBA Student Receives Scholarship

Members of the Weekend MBA Alumni Association presented a check for $5000.00 to scholarship recipient Jeff Audrestch during the Class of 2014 Orientation. Each year the Alumni Association awards a scholarship to a Weekend MBA student who demonstrates the capacity to achieve professional goals, as well as the initiative to seek opportunities to further their education.
Keeping up with the Times – Suggested Reading List

Marilyn Johnson:

Necessary Endings by Henry Cloud

Cloud offers practical wisdom on when to continue to invest in business relationships and when to move on.

Bob Wiseman:

Nerds on Wall Street: Math, Machines and Wired Markets by David J. Leinweber

Very interesting glimpse into how investment firms operate and how the investment community has evolved with the development of technology.

Alumni recommendation:

The Four Obsessions of an...
Extraordinary Executive: A Leadership Fable by Patrick Lencioni

Obsessions of an Extraordinary Executive, a "leadership fable" by Patrick Lencioni, continues the trend of allegories and parables with a solid prescription for organizational health--aiming for less politics, lower turnover, more productivity, and higher morale.

Book summaries provided in part by Amazon.

Commitment. Make sure your team understands what is in front of them and you have their buy in on the timing. Teams are more successful if everyone understands what is required and can provide their input to the process.

4. Don't let the experts be the experts
As a Project Manager your role is to pull everything together from a documentation standpoint, making sure everyone understands the timing and scope of work, keeping the team on task, and providing status updates and feedback on a regular basis. Your job is not to write site copy or do creative design. There are experts on your team that are really good at that so let them be the experts.

5. Don't communicate to others in a manner that suits their needs
Your project's stakeholders will all

Committee:
wmbacommunications@gmail.com
Lori Haindl Torres
Sarah Post
Alana Reome
require information on their project, but they all will not need the same information or frequency of communication. Your project management counterpart on the client's team will need to know where things stand on a daily basis, but the VP of Marketing may only want a weekly status. There are also people that will only want to know when the project goes south. A good communication plan will ensure you don't become noise.

6. Over plan for contingencies

A good risk management plan is a great place to put your project's contingencies, but you shouldn't try and plan for every contingency that comes up during planning. People will often say something like "One time I remember when the internet went down and users couldn't access the site. We should cache the site on each user's machine
so this won't be an issue”. While adding in that contingency to your project scope will solve that scenario, it will also add additional time and cost to solve a problem that will most likely not occur. It is better to have a solid risk management plan that identifies potential risks and their respective probability and impact. Any high risks can be planned for and the others can be reviewed on a regular basis.