

Leadership Message

I first came to Toronto SPIN as a presenter, in October 2003. As someone new to the world of process improvement, I was immediately impressed with the vision and mandate of the organization. Process improvement is a difficult endeavour, and giving people a forum to come together to share knowledge, ask questions, and meet peers with similar goals is an invaluable aid to navigating this thorny, nebulous, and often confusing realm.

In particular, the breadth of the audience struck me as being truly representative of the realities of the high tech industry – your typical SPIN event will see people from companies large and small, public and private sector, independent consultants, project managers, software developers, testers, engineers – because industry has come to recognize that process matters, and that improving anything (be it your business, your work environment, even your day-to-day life) will eventually lead to some examination of processes. I came away from that event both humbled and inspired. When people from different places come together to discuss their common pains, it is always something powerful and impressive – in a way, organizations like Toronto SPIN represent the grassroots of the software process improvement world!

A year later, I had joined as a volunteer and had taken lead of the Programme Sub-Committee. This was an incredibly exciting time for Toronto SPIN, as we



started branching out into different topic areas for our events – for example, we brought in speakers on very specific topics aimed at the technical community, such as testing practices and agile development. Whereas once you may have seen a very specific CMMI, project management, and process maturity slant to Toronto SPIN topics (and, dare I say, to the process improvement arena in general), we are now seeing some significant changes in the ongoing dialogue. For example, agile methodologies and techniques have proven to be successful and have come to the forefront of most software process discussions. At the same time, the technologies available to us as IT professionals are continuing to evolve and mature, with collaboration, organizational dynamics, and business alignment appearing on the radar as serious considerations for anyone looking to improve how their software is being developed and delivered.

To anyone considering volunteering for Toronto SPIN, I would encourage you to do it! The topics and people that this organization will introduce you to will help you grow as an IT professional and give you an invaluable chance to give back to the IT community. I'm proud to be a part of Toronto SPIN, and excited to see our plans for the next few years take fruition.

Vivienne Suen
Steering Committee Member
(Program Sub-Committee Chair, 2004-2006)

What's Inside

This month's issue of the Toronto SPINner includes...

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Please submit any feedback on this newsletter as well as articles for consideration in future issues to communications@torontospin.com.

Call for Special Feature Articles

Why not participate in Toronto SPIN by sharing your knowledge and expertise through publishing a 'Special Feature' article in this newsletter?

Last month's Special Feature article prompted some virtual teaming amongst the author and our members.

All Toronto SPIN members are eligible to participate. Submissions should be no greater than 750 words and we appreciate graphics and photographs, if appropriate. Please send your submissions to communications@torontospin.com.

Victoria Johnston

Communications Sub-Committee

Recent TSPIN Activities

In this section, we will provide a glimpse of some key recent Toronto SPIN events and activities. Remember that final speaker presentations are available on our website for your reference at <http://www.torontospin.com/torontospin/events.shtml>.

June 2008 Event

We have always traditionally closed down events during the July/August summer months. So our June event was the last event before the summer holiday break.



Li Fang at TSPIN

The topic for the June 2008 Event was 'Use Cases and Estimation' attracted 26 attendees, including a member all the way from Detroit! The event was held in the IBM auditorium at 3600 Steeles Avenue East in Markham, Ontario.

To ensure that attendees had a common understanding of best practices in Use Case development, Li Fang, a business analyst with IBM Global Services presented an 'Introduction to Use Cases'.

Our second presenter, Sergey Diev, a senior systems



Sergey Diev at TSPIN

analyst at Bank of Montreal shared practical lessons learned in his presentation "Software Estimation in the Maintenance Context: Applying Use Case Points".

Rekha Kulshreshtha
TSPIN June 2008 Event Manager

Diamond Sponsor Bid Update

The Diamond Sponsor bid officially closed on July 7th and we have a winner! Stay tuned over the coming months as we welcome our Diamond Sponsor to the team.

Our new and improved sponsorship program has generated interest in the community and a number of additional organizations have come forward to discuss sponsorship agreements. We're delighted to see this revival in interest from our community. Access to sponsorship funds is key to our ability to bring more value to the community.

For more information on the Toronto SPIN sponsorship program, please go to our sponsor page at <http://www.torontospin.com/torontospin/sponsors.shtml>

Renay Langdon
TSPIN Sponsorship Sub-Committee Lead

Upcoming TSPIN Activities

In this section, we will highlight a bit about upcoming events. Note that during the summer holiday months of July and August, Toronto SPIN does not have any



planned events. But we are actively planning for a busy fall event season. Stay tuned, as more information about these events and activities becomes available.

Please register, if you plan on attending an event, as we use registration information as a basis for refreshment orders.

Networking Event

We are very excited about our first ever evening Networking Event to be held in Toronto on Thursday, October 2, 2008. Save the date!

We are actively collecting door prizes, so if you'd like to contribute, please send a note to communications@torontospin.com.

Stay tuned over the coming summer months for more details on this event.

Jenna Munro
TSPIN Networking Event Manager

Other Activities in the Area

In this section, we share information about other upcoming activities in the area that may be of interest to our members. The focus is on activities that are aligned with Toronto SPIN's mission and mandate.

Great Lakes Software Excellence (GLSEC) Conference

We'd like to share an upcoming learning opportunity



not too far away from home for our Toronto SPIN members. This conference is taking place on November 4 – 5, 2008.

The GLSEC is organized by [XP West Michigan](#), a non-profit trade association dedicated to improving the competitiveness of Michigan's software development community. This year's conference is again being held in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the [Prince Conference Center](#) at Calvin College.

The call for participation for GLSEC 2008 is now out. Deadline is July 31, 2008. Check out the link to this conference at <http://www.glsec.org/>.

Victoria Johnston
Communications Sub-Committee

International Conference on Software Process Improvement



The International Institute for Software Process ([IISP](#)) is sponsoring the International Conference on Software Process Improvement ([ICSPI](#)) in Washington DC on October 20 - 24, 2008. Details for the ICSPI conference are listed at www.icspi.com.

The ICSPI 2008 program features presentations by world leading authorities and practitioners in software process improvement.

- Keynote Presentations
- Dozens of Track and Feature Presentations
- Vendor Expo
- 18 Full-Day Tutorials

Members of the Toronto SPIN will receive 25% discount on all conference sessions as long as they use promotional code "TORONTOSPIN" on their registration. This discount provides up to a \$300 savings, depending on the number of days the individual registers for.

Additionally IISP offers educational classes that count



toward the Certified Software Process Improvement Professional ([CSPIP](#)) credential, which will provide those who become certified with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their job duties with the highest levels of professionalism and competency. For more information on this prestigious certification, please click on the certification logo below or visit www.SPInstitute.org.

Toronto SPIN members are eligible to receive discounts on all of IISPs' public training and certification events.

Andrew Gurudata
TSPIN Membership Sub-Committee Lead

News from SEI



There has been lots of valuable information sent to us this month by Shane McGraw of SEI. Shane coordinates collaboration across all SPINs around the world.

Network of SPINs growing

Over the last four months six new SPIN chapters have been formed. Please help me welcome them to the Network! They are:

- Argentina SPIN
- Ireland SPIN
- Lahore, Pakistan SPIN
- Israel SPIN
- South Florida SPIN
- Central Florida SPIN

The SPIN Network continues to grow. This brings the total number of SPINs to 129 worldwide!

SEI SPIN Newsletter – “SPIN This”

Did you know that SEI publishes a quarterly SPIN Newsletter? The inaugural issue was released early this year.

The Summer 2008 edition of the SPIN Newsletter can now be downloaded at: <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/collaborating/spins/newsletter.html>. In this edition, “SPIN This” covers a great collaboration between SPINs in New York City, Boston, North Jersey, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. The “SPIN Spotlight” interview features the Boston SPIN. We take a look at how they are run and how they have changed over time. Lastly, the “Feature Article,” is a publication by Jim McHale. Jim covers the TSP-Based CMMI Accelerated Improvement Method (TCAIM).

SEPG North America 2009

The Call for Abstracts and Call for Reviewers is now open for SEPG North America 2009! The conference will take place March 23 - 26, 2009 in San Jose, California.

This year SPIN members selected to review abstracts will constitute the Review Board for SPIN (formerly Program Committee Members). Your participation is vital to ensure a successful show that we all benefit from.

For details on how to sign up please see: <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/sepg/na2009/program.html>.

SEI Webinars & SPIN Wiki

Have you wanted to attend an off-site presentation by an SEI Expert, but couldn't make it work with your budget or schedule? Or, have you wanted to bring an SEI expert into your organization to speak, but couldn't make it work with their budget or schedule?

On July 18th, the SEI kicked-off a twice-monthly webinar series that will allow anyone, from any location, to log in and hear a presentation by an SEI staff member on existing research or technologies, as well as view accompanying slides.

The first webinar took place on July 18th, 2008, featured Jeannine M. Sivi, co-author of the book CMMI and Six Sigma: Partners In Process Improvement, and Patrick Kirwan, who presented a lecture on “Process Improvement in Multi-Model Environments (PRIME)”.

On July 31st, Gian Wemyss and Palma Buttles-Valdez will give a lecture entitled “Workforce Issues of the 21st Century: The People CMM to the Rescue”. This presentation will open with a discussion of workforce issues that organizations are currently experiencing, potential side effects, and how these issues can affect performance and retention. Following will be an introduction to the People CMM and how it can assist organizations in implementing practices that build greater workforce capability and equip organizations to address potential current and future workforce issues.

On August 14th, Grace Lewis will give a lecture entitled “Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA)”. It is clear that Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) is having a substantial impact on the way that software systems are developed. According to a 2007 Gartner Group report, 50% of new mission-critical operational applications and business processes were designed in 2007 around SOA, and that number will be more than 80% by 2010. This presentation will provide an overview of SOA (a development paradigm) and explain the implications that SOA adoption has on the processes used to develop service-oriented systems.

For more information on these webinars go to <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/collaborating/spins/webinars.html>.

Each presentation will be recorded and made available on the SPIN Wiki for playback at any time. You do not need to be a member of a SPIN to register for the Wiki, which can be accessed at <http://seispin.wikispaces.com>.

If you would like to register for a particular presentation or have any questions, please contact me at spin@sei.cmu.edu or 412-268-2358.

*From Shane McGraw
SEI SPIN Coordinator*

Toronto SPIN Volunteer Team

Toronto SPIN would not exist without the support of dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to all our volunteers to contribute their time to making Toronto SPIN the success that it is today.



Ruben Montero and Rodolfo Zuniga

Welcome to our new recruits!

Welcome to two new volunteers to the Toronto SPIN team.

Alan Osborne will be joining the Communications Sub-Committee. Alan is a graphics specialist, currently working for Putting Edge Fun Centers. We look forward to his contribution towards helping Toronto SPIN incorporate more modernized look-and-feel concepts.

Mariam Hashmi, is a Strategy and Change consultant with IBM Canada and our second new recruit. Since we are experiencing significant growth this year, we have asked Mariam to focus on helping Toronto SPIN establish standard processes across all Sub-Committees. Based on all our industry lessons learned, we know that fast growth requires good foundational processes to enable our volunteers to contribute effectively and efficiently towards Toronto SPIN's success.

Call for Volunteers

We continue to look for enthusiastic and energetic individuals to join the volunteer team. The majority of our work is done remotely from our normal work locations via teleconference calls. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities with Toronto SPIN, please send an email to volunteers@torontospin.com.

Our Current Volunteer Team

Name	Company
TSPIN Steering Committee Members	
Doris Concepcion	IBM Canada Ltd.
Andrew Gurudata	Telus Mobility
Sanford Hersh	Computer Elations Inc.
Rekha Kulshreshtha	IBM Canada Ltd.
Susan Muckle	Ontario Energy Board
Vivienne Suen	IBM Canada Ltd.
Steven Turner	ESI Canada
Rodolfo Zuniga	IBM Canada Ltd.
Winifred Menezes	Freya Consulting Ltd.
Erika Vintan	Bank of Montreal
Kirk Zapa	KayCee Inc.
Volunteer Team Members	
Emmanuel Gonnet	Gem Up Consulting
Mariam Hashmi	IBM Canada Ltd.
Victoria Johnston	IBM Canada Ltd.
Orhan Kalayci	Smart Systems for Health Agency
Renay Langdon	Smart Systems for Health Agency
Joyce MacDonald	Gregory Consulting Ltd.
Ruben Montero	IBM Canada Ltd.
Jenna Munro	IBM Canada Ltd.
Alan Osborne	Putting Edge Fun Centers
Sachin Quadros	IBM Canada Ltd.
Hamid Yazdanpanah	IBM Canada Ltd.
Nancy Xiao	IBM Canada Ltd.
Juana Zegarra	CGI Inc.
Jian Zhang	Large Canadian Bank

Rekha Kulshreshtha
TSPIN Volunteer Sub-Committee Lead



Sachin Quadros