

Leadership Message

I have been a member of the Toronto SPIN since 2005 and recently became more involved by volunteering for the Program Sub-Committee in December 2007.

Since volunteering, I have worked with a great group of people who are dedicated to ensuring the success of this organization. Over the years, I have received email from the Toronto SPIN regarding upcoming events and additional topics of interest. I am pleased to see that we now have a monthly newsletter to showcase the group's activities. I am also happy to see that we are hosting a variety of events. We have a great line-up of upcoming events, including our Networking event on October 2nd. I look forward to meeting many of you there!

After working with such a dedicated group of volunteers, it inspired me to do even more and join the Sponsorship Sub-Committee. Although we receive



funding through our events, sponsors play a critical role in the success of this organization. Access to sponsorship funds allows us to promote the Toronto SPIN, and recognize our members, sponsors, event speakers and volunteers.

The Sponsorship Sub-Committee has been busy with a lot of recent activity. We instituted a new sponsorship program and are actively looking for new sponsors. We introduced the new "Diamond Sponsor" level and are happy to announce that our new Diamond Sponsor for the 2008/2009 fiscal year is [David Consulting Group](#). Please learn more about David Consulting Group in our

What's Inside

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newsletter. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, I encourage you to review our [Sponsorship Program](#) or contact the [Sponsorship Sub-Committee](#).

With the inception of the new sponsorship program, we are actively seeking volunteers to join the Sponsorship Sub-Committee. By volunteering, you will have the opportunity to work with a remarkable group of people, help shape the new sponsorship management process, and help maintain a relationship with our existing sponsors. If you are interested, please send an email to the [Volunteer Sub-Committee](#).

I'm proud to be a part of the Toronto SPIN and look forward to contributing to our support and influence within the community in the years to come.

Renay Langdon
Sponsorship Sub-Committee Lead

Our Diamond Sponsor..




david consulting group

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

September 2008 Event

Registration for the September 2008 event opened recently.

We are pleased to welcome Emmanuel Gonnet and Carolyn Swadron as our speakers for the September event. Emmanuel is a consultant with GEM-UP CONSULTING INC. and a TSPIN volunteer. Carolyn, who is a Senior Manager of Quality Assurance at CIBC, returns to us after many years – she presented at a TSPIN event in June 2001.

Emmanuel will kick-off the event with a presentation on “Estimating Software-Intensive Projects”. His presentation will introduce a number of estimation techniques providing examples and enabling debates on advantages/drawbacks of the various techniques when applied to Greenfield projects, maintenance projects, web-based and embedded/algorithmic systems.

In her presentation, “Estimating Your Way To Success”, Carolyn will describe the process that CIBC’s Internet Channel Delivery Quality Assurance (QA) team followed to establish estimating procedures and guidelines based on type, size and complexity of deliverables, and to collect the data necessary to develop increasingly accurate estimates. Currently Carolyn’s QA team produces estimates that average within 4% of actual effort and 7% of actual duration. Although the estimating examples relate to QA process, the approach applies to any type of project / deliverable.

We hope to see you at this event. Please register at <http://www.torontospin.com/torontospin/events.shtml> as soon as possible because we have to confirm food orders one day in advance of the event.

Ruben Montero

TSPIN Program Sub-Committee Lead

Networking Event – October 2, 2008

In last months’ newsletter, we announced the date for our first ever evening Networking Event to be held in Toronto on Thursday, October 2, 2008 from 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm.



The event will take place at Boston Pizza located at

117, 4841 Yonge Street. There will be some organized activities, door prizes and appetizer platters all evening long. Registration is \$30.00, which will be collected at the door, and includes 1 alcoholic beverage. Additional alcoholic beverages are \$5.00 each.

We are pleased to invite all members to this event.



Registration for this event is now open. This event is dedicated to bringing together our past speakers, past volunteers, past sponsors and providing all attendees with an opportunity to mix and mingle in a social setting.

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

We are very excited about this event – do encourage your friends and colleagues to attend. Please register as there are number of planning activities for which we need to know the approximate number of people attending in advance.

Jenna Munro

TSPIN Networking Event Manager

Toronto SPIN Website Continues to Improve!

When you go to our event registration website, you will notice that it has been upgraded recently.

We received input from our members that TSPIN should hold more events. One of our limitations was that our website could only handle registrations for one event at a time.



As we ramp up to deliver more events than we have done in the past, we realized we needed to be able to run the concurrent registrations for multiple events. This new functionality has now been implemented.

We continue to work on improving our website and are actively looking for additional web developers to help us. If you are interested in being part of the TSPIN web team, please contact the [Volunteer Sub-Committee](#).

Kirk Zapa

TSPIN Web Team Lead

New Diamond Sponsor – Welcome!

We are pleased to announce that our new Diamond Sponsor for the 2008/2009 fiscal year is [David Consulting Group](#).



david consulting group

Who is David Consulting Group?

DCG was formed in 1994 by David Garmus and David Herron, two of the industry's acknowledged authorities in the field of sizing, measurement and estimation of software application development and maintenance. Together with the President, Michael Harris they make the DCG Advisory Board.

DCG's consultants are drawn from industry and have decades of practical hands-on experience across multiple industries and government in the United States and Internationally. DCG has provided services on every continent from North America to South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. All of DCG consultants are at the top of their profession, highly qualified and well used to translating the results of sizing and measurement exercises into practical business driven recommendations.

Competition, change, cost control and growth continue to drive business leaders to seek improved

value from IT. Greater IT value improves operational effectiveness and benefits the bottom line.

DCG's strong focus on delivering IT value means they go beyond data collection and analysis. They help you implement actions that are measurable and cost effective. DCG IT Value solutions raise your level of productivity, performance and quality. You benefit from their extensive experience in industry and government which they tailor to your unique environment and culture.

DCG consultants deliver value from the start to the finish of your project because their agile approach ensures that if they are no longer delivering value then they are no longer billing you! DCG software measurement and function point analysis specialists help you measure productivity, cost, quality and other dimensions of performance providing insight for decision-making.

DCG Publications, News, & Events

David Consulting Group publications include articles, presentations, and podcasts to help you gain the right understanding on a variety of relevant and crucial topics in software sizing, software measurement, software

process improvement and IT performance improvement. Published books from DCG authors are also available for purchase through various booksellers.

Visit www.davidconsultinggroup.com and register to receive a monthly newsletter and download free publications. You can also find information on upcoming events, archived webinars, and past newsletters.

For additional information, you may contact DCG via email at info@davidconsultinggroup.com.

Additional Sponsors

We have signed an agreement with an organization for bronze level sponsorship and are in the process of setting up the relationship. Watch the next newsletter for an announcement and introduction of our latest sponsor.

We are also in discussions with another well-known organization for a gold level sponsorship. Stay tuned for more information.

Renay Langdon

Sponsorship Sub-Committee Lead

Call for Sponsors

Are you interested in becoming a Toronto SPIN sponsor? All new sponsors will be recognized at the upcoming Networking Event on October 2, 2008.

There are 5 levels of sponsors. All levels cover a 12 month sponsorship period. With the exception of the Diamond level, there can be multiple sponsors per level.

- **Diamond – exclusively awarded to David Consulting Group for 2008/2009 Toronto SPIN fiscal year**
- **Platinum - \$3,000.00 Cdn**
- **Gold - \$2,000.00 Cdn**
- **Silver - \$1,000.00 Cdn**
- **Bronze - \$500.00 Cdn**

For more information about the TSPIN Sponsorship program, please go to the Sponsors page on our website at

<http://www.torontospin.com/torontospin/sponsors.shtml>.

Please send a note to sponsorship@torontospin.com if you are interested in becoming a sponsor.

Renay Langdon

TSPIN Sponsorship Sub-Committee

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.

QUEST Toronto Conference

As we share a common advocacy of process improvement with SPIN in Software Development projects, we are delighted to announce the upcoming Quest Toronto Conference. This conference will take place at the Downtown Toronto Hilton from September 22 – 24, 2008.

We are featuring a keynote speaker, Mike Phillips from SEI, at our QUEST Toronto Conference in September 2008. In his keynote presentation "The SEI: Committed to Quality Improvement", Mike will address



Mike Phillips

the strategic direction of the Software Engineering Institute. While he will reference the CMMI® Product Suite for which he is responsible, emphasis will be placed on the wide range of initiatives that provide the sound basis for the best practices models he manages. The key elements of architecture, systems of systems, and security, as well as process related activities such as the Team Software

Process (TSP) and the SEI's Measurement and Analysis focus will be covered. Mike will also discuss cross-cutting initiatives such as PRIME, in an effort to address multiple models and methods for improved synergy. For more information see www.gaiquest.org/toronto/keynote.html.

Additionally, we have several presentations and workshops on process improvement that I am sure many Toronto SPIN members would enjoy attending.

We are offering Toronto SPIN members a 10% discount off registration fees as a membership benefit. The schedule of presentations can be found at www.gaiquest.org/toronto/caag2.html. To register for the event, please go to our registration website at www.gaiquest.org/toronto/register.html.

Al Phomin
QAI Canada

The Software Best Practices Webinar Series

CAI and IT Metrics & Productivity Institute are proud to present the Software Best Practices Library of Webinar Recordings.

The Software Best Practices Webinars Series is dedicated to improving the practice and management of software development and maintenance world wide.

All live webinars are FREE and have been accredited with PDU credits by PMI's ISSIG group. Each webinar is worth 1 PDU credit.

Topics covered in 2008 will include:

- Software Measurement
- Software Project Estimation
- Software Testing
- Software Project Management
- Software Benchmarking
- Rapid Application Development
- Legacy Systems Support
- Agile Development
- Software Six Sigma
- IT Project Governance
- IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL)
- Outsourcing Best Practices

For information on the 2008 webinar schedule, please go to <http://www.itmpi.org/webinars/>. Recordings from previously held webinars can also be accessed from this website.

Victoria Johnston
Communications Sub-Committee Lead

What's Goin' On

Check out the following learning opportunities in the area.

- September 23, 2008 – Toronto SPIN Conference Event on "Estimating". (Please register at: <http://www.torontospin.com/torontospin/events.shtml>)
- September 22 – 24, 2008 – QUEST Toronto Conference (www.gaiquest.org/toronto/caag2.html). 10% discount for Toronto SPIN members.
- October 2, 2008 – Toronto SPIN Networking Event. Registration will open soon.
- October 20 – 24, 2008 – International Conference on Software Process Improvement (www.icspi.com). 25% discount for Toronto SPIN members (use promotional code "TORONTOSPIN" on registration).
- November 4 – 5, 2008 – Great Lakes Software Excellence (GLSEC) Conference (www.glsec.org/).
- March 23 – 26, 2009 – SEPG North America 2009 in San Jose, California (www.sei.cmu.edu/sepg/na2009/program.html).

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.

Welcome to our newest recruit!



Venkat Ramaseshan

Welcome to our newest volunteers to the Toronto SPIN team, Venkat Ramaseshan! Venkat has significant experience in process improvement – we look forward to his contribution in improving TSPIN processes.

Good-byes to Departing Volunteers...

We are very sad to say good-bye to two of our long-term volunteers: Rodolfo Zuniga and Steven Turner.

Rodolfo Zuniga has been with Toronto SPIN for many years. He was our strongest volunteer at the registration desk, which can be our most chaotic activity, if not managed well. Soon after joining the volunteer team, Rodolfo took over the role of Treasurer and has taken the organization from being “in the red” to the healthiest financial position we have ever been in. I know it was a shock to all the volunteers when we heard that Rodolfo had decided to leave. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors and hope that we will continue to see him at some of the Toronto SPIN events.



Rodolfo Zuniga

The resignation of Steven Turner, while very saddening, was a little bit less of a surprise. We knew for some time that Steven had recently received a well-deserved promotion and additional responsibilities in his job which were making it more challenging for Steven to continue his current level of volunteer participation. Steven has made an outstanding contribution to the volunteer team for many years. He accepted the role of Event Manager for a number of events as well as concurrently serving on multiple Sub-Committees. During our toughest times, when we began to question our future, Steven played an instrumental role in turning the organization around. As Secretary of Toronto SPIN, he ensured that our Steering Committee Meetings became extremely structured, efficient and effective. We will miss him sorely, but do understand his need to leave us as this time.

In addition, Nancy Xiao, who many of you may remember from the registration desk at our recent events, briefly joined the Web team but has decided to leave the Toronto SPIN team this month.

Finally, Jian Zhang, a member of our Program Sub-Committee has also decided to leave due to things just being too hectic for him at this time.

Many, many thanks to our departing volunteers – we hope they will continue to participate as Toronto SPIN members in our events – and maybe even return to the volunteer team in the future.

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.

Once you express interest in volunteering on the Toronto SPIN team, you will be invited to a 1-hour “Volunteer Orientation Session” via teleconference call. This orientation session will provide you with an overview of how Toronto SPIN is internally structured and the volunteer opportunities that are available. After that session, you can make your choice of whether and how you want to get involved.

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.
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.
Venkat Ramaseshan	IBM Canada Ltd.
Hamid Yazdanpanah	IBM Canada Ltd.
Juana Zegarra	CGI Inc.

Rekha Kulshreshtha
TSPIN Volunteer Sub-Committee Lead