

President's Thoughts

Dear members and friends,

I hope you all had a happy and fulfilling holiday season. Welcome to the second half of the 2013-2014 Greater Alabama Chapter program year! We kicked off 2014 in a big way with our joint Cost Workshop with MDA and NASA on January 15th. Over 80 professionals were in attendance, and I want to thank everyone who organized and participated in this exciting event. We had six excellent speakers who presented a variety of cost-related topics ranging from a software cost estimating flowchart to NASA's new Project Cost Estimating Capability (PCEC).

We have more exciting activities to look forward to in the coming months, including our community cost education sessions starting February 3rd (sign up now!) and an enlightening presentation on Earned Value Management from Norman Dean on February 11th. We hope to see you at any or all of our upcoming events.

It's also time to start preparing for the ICEAA Professional Cost Estimator/Analyst (PCEA) and Certified Cost Estimator/Analyst (CCEA) examinations which will be held on April 12! The deadline to sign up for the exam is February 28th. These are prestigious and hard-earned certifications which are well worth the time it takes to prepare for the exam. The upcoming cost education courses are an excellent way to supplement your studies, and our certification team will also hold small, focused sessions as the exam date nears to answer specific questions you may have as you prepare.

Wishing you a great 2014!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Lewis, CCEA

2013-2014 Greater Alabama Chapter President

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Did You Know?

Inchworm on a Rubber Rope

Imagine a rubber rope one meter long. An inchworm starts at one end and travels along the rope at 1 cm/sec. At the end of every second, the rope gets stretched so that it was one meter longer than before (the worm is carried along with the stretching). So the worm travels 1 cm, the rope gets stretched 1 whole meter, then the worm travels 1 cm farther on the stretched rope, the rope gets stretched again by another meter, and the worm travels 1 cm farther, etc.

Does the worm ever reach the end of the rope?

Amazingly, yes! If you consider the fraction of the rope traveled by the Nth second, the fraction is proportional to the partial sum of the harmonic series out to the Nth term. Since this diverges as N grows, it must eventually exceed the total length of rope.

[\(Math Fun Facts\)](#)

Dollars and \$ense

Beginning Balance (As of December 16, 2013)	\$7,204
Income minus Disbursements	-\$350
Ending Balance (As of January 29, 2014)	\$6,854

James Glenn,
Treasurer

Mark your Calendars



Join us in Denver June 10-13 for the 2014 ICEAA Professional Development & Training Workshop where you will have unique opportunities to:

- Discover the most recent developments in the field at over 40 comprehensive training sessions featuring content from the Cost Estimating Body of Knowledge and Parametric Estimating Handbook
- Gain valuable insights from 100 professional paper presentations
- Prepare for the CCEA® or PCEA® exams or earn CEU credits for recertification
- Share best practices with colleagues from around the world
- Discuss the latest tools and technologies directly with the companies generating these valuable resources

To register online, visit

<https://www.iceaaonline.org/events/conference/conferenceProcess1.cfm?confID=53>

Test Your Knowledge

Question

We are in the middle of installing 8 Aquaria. The task has a budget of \$100 per aquarium installed and is scheduled to occur from January to March. 25/75 is the EV method assigned to the installation task. It is now the end of February. We have installed 4 of the Aquaria and are on schedule to install the remaining 4 next month. What is the cumulative performance or BCWP to report for month-end Feb?

- A.) 100
- B.) 200
- C.) 400
- D.) 800
- E.) None

**January is
National Hot Tea
Month**

Although tea drinking has been associated with health benefits for centuries, only in recent years have its medicinal properties been investigated scientifically.

Tea's health benefits are largely due to its high content of flavonoids — plant-derived compounds that are antioxidants. Green tea is the best food source of a group called catechins. In test tubes, catechins are more powerful than vitamins C and E in halting oxidative damage to cells and appear to have other disease-fighting properties. Studies have found an association between consuming green tea and a reduced risk for several cancers, including, skin, breast, lung, colon, esophageal, and bladder.

PCEA/CCEA Spring Training Workshop

Event Details:

When: Monday Evenings [February 3, 2014 - March 24, 2014]

Time: 5pm-7pm

Where: Wyle's CAS Group (Large Conference Room)
100 Quality Cir NW Huntsville, AL

Registration: Please contact Teresa Brown teresa.l.brown@nasa.gov

Date	Session	Instructor
February 3, 2014	#1- Introduction	Stacy Houk
February 10, 2014	#2- Risk and Software	Teresa Brown and Stephanie Lewis
February 17, 2014	No Class	President's Day
February 24, 2014	#3- Contracts	Denise Cline
March 3, 2014	#4- Economics and Statistics	Barbara Stone-Towns
March 10, 2014	#5- Managerial Accounting	George Cash
March 17, 2014	#6- Inflation Indices	Paul Gardner
March 24, 2014	#7- Learning Curve	Christian Smart

PCEA/CCEA Spring 2014 Exam

Exam Date: April 12, 2014

Application Deadline: February 28, 2014

Where: Huntsville, AL

Certification Application:

https://www.iceaaonline.org/certification/files/Certification_Form.pdf

Submit completed application to iceaa@iceaaonline.org

Designation/ Credential	Educational Requirement	Experience Requirement	Educational Exception
PCEA®	Bachelor's Degree in any field from an accredited college	Minimum 2 years of cost experience but less than 5 years experience	5 years of cost experience in lieu of a Bachelor's Degree
CCEA®	Bachelor's Degree in any field from an accredited college	5 years of cost experience	8 years of cost experience in lieu of a Bachelor's Degree

February Luncheon

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Patriot Room,

SAIC Bldg 1,

6725 Odyssey Dr, Huntsville, AL

\$10 **Optional** Boxed Lunch Provided by Jason's Deli

Guest Speaker: Norman Dean

Topic: Earned Value Management

Email reservations to jean.barmettler.ctr@mda.mil by COB Thursday, February 6th

February is American Heart Month

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women, but heart disease is preventable and controllable.

Plan for
Prevention

- Eat a Healthy Diet
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Exercise regularly
- Monitor your blood pressure
- Don't smoke
- Limit alcohol use
- Have your cholesterol checked
- Take your medicine

[CDC Heart Month](#)

About Our Speaker



Norman Dean began his career as an army civilian in 2007. Currently, he serves as an Earned Value Analyst for the Lower Tier Project Office (LTPO) where he works with multiple contracts covering both the missile and ground support equipment of the PATRIOT missile system. He has been an Earned Value analyst with LTPO for two years. Prior to his time at LTPO, Norman worked for the Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) Demilitarization office where he was the working group lead for the implementation of Multiple Launch

Rocket System (MLRS) rocket demilitarization technology at Anniston Army Depot. He has also worked in the AMCOM Command Analysis Directorate (CAD) office where he assisted with studies on the effectiveness of the aviation RESET program. He has also served on the ICEAA board, the board for Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders (TACL), and volunteered for the Army Educational Outreach Program.

Norman has a M.S. degree in mathematics and statistics from the University of South Alabama, a B.S. in mathematics from Auburn University Montgomery, and was pursuing a M.S. in systems engineering from the University of Alabama Huntsville until he married his beautiful wife Amanda three months ago. Norman now spends his spare time learning how to love his new wife. He also enjoys serving his church, volunteering as a tutor with Lincoln Village Ministries, and playing tennis, softball, and ultimate Frisbee.

MDA/DOC ICEAA Cost Workshop Photos



Andy Prince explaining NASA's Project Cost Estimating Capability



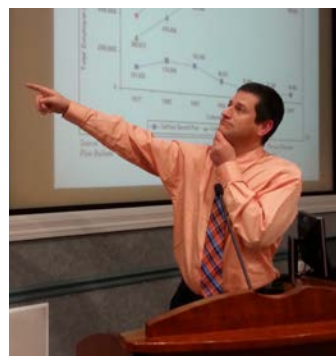
Dan Strickland explains the MDA/DOC Software Estimation Flowchart



Dr. Christian Smart explains how to do Parametric Estimates with Limited Data



Dr. Wes Colley discussing how NASA is Rethinking Affordability and Systems Engineering



David Cowart explaining the Pension Protection Act



Eric Hawkes explains Leadership and Management in the Cost Estimating Profession

Test Your Knowledge

Answer: B.) 200

In the x%/y% method, x% of progress is earned when the task is initiated, and the remained y% is earned upon completion of the task. The installation of 8 Aquaria is one task. The total BCWS is \$800. As soon as the task is begun, 25% of the \$800 is earned, which is a BCWP of \$200 (25% * \$800). This illustrates the importance of task definition in EVM. If instead each installation was defined as a separate task, EVM would report BCWP of \$400 (4 completed Aquaria, 4*\$100*100% = \$400).

Source: CEBok Module 15

Website

Check Us Out!

Have you missed a newsletter or would you like to know what upcoming events our chapter is planning? Check our website!

Greater Alabama Chapter Website:
<https://www.iceaonline.org/chapters/alabama/index.cfm>

ICEAA Board Members

Contact information for the 2013-2014 ICEAA Board is provided below. Please feel free to contact them with your suggestions, questions, or comments.

President: Ms. Stephanie Lewis
(MDA)
Stephanie.Lewis@mda.mil

Membership: Ms. Melissa Coker
(BCF Solutions/MDA)
Melissa.Coker.CTR@mda.mil

Vice-President: Mr. Stephen Newton
(ECS-Federal)
Stephen.newton@ecs-federal.com

Publicity: Ms. Nicole Barmettler
(BCF Solutions/MDA)
Jean.Barmettler.CTR@mda.mil

Treasurer: Mr. James Glenn
(CSC/MDA)
james.glenn.CTR@mda.mil

Past President: Ms. Teresa Brown
(NASA)
Teresa.I.Brown@nasa.gov

Administrative: Mr. Norman Dean
(AMCOM G-3)
Norman.Deaniv@us.army.mil

Government Education: Dr. Christian Smart
(MDA)
Christian.Smart@mda.mil

Certification: Dr. Sam Cooke
(ECS-Federal)
DrHSamuelCooke@yahoo.com

Industry Education: Mr. Paul Gardner
(CSC/MDA)
john.gardner.CTR@mda.mil