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## July 2011: You Can Walk Away For More Than A Day

### **ASTD & PMI Chpt Leaders**

*Planning for 2012 or even for next month's meeting?*

Consider bringing in one of our facilitators. We'll partner with you so that we both make money, which everyone loves! Contact Brittney at [btiemann@russellmartin.com](mailto:btiemann@russellmartin.com)

### **Leading Your Staff Since You've Been Too Busy**

Check out the [recording](#) of the free webinar Lou did last week challenging leaders to get back to their real job- growing the next leaders. Thanks to the 400 people who registered for this webinar! The next freebie is July 18th. [Register Here.](#)

### **Where's RMA in July?**



#### **Happy Independence Day!**

July 7th Butler U WPM Workshop  
 July 11th AASLH Webinar #1  
 July 18th AASLH Webinar #2  
 July 20th MISO 10 Steps Workshop

*Mary Cook* will be spending some

### **We Walked Away For A Week**

**In an attempt to model our teaching, RMA closed its doors (virtual & otherwise) for an entire week**

As many of you know, I went on a wonderful 10 day trip to Italy and Spain with my whole family two weeks ago. Brittney, our project



management extraordinaire, also had commitments that week. After some reflection, we decided to close the company for a week. Yep, close it. Not look at email at all for a whole week. I wasn't even going to check phone messages or texts because of the expense. We gave people a heads up via last month's newsletter, sent a broadcast, put away messages up, and walked away. Brittney and I were both terrified that we would insult our customers, lose customers or some other horrible fate.

Guess what happened. Nothing. In all fairness, I checked emails for emergencies once and it seems Brittney eye-balled them a bit more often than that. I did nothing with email and she did very little. I took a complete day alone (focused) to catch up outside the office, still off the grid. Net effect- we are both rested, re-energized and missed nothing.

I listened to an [HBR Ideacast](#) interviewing Sherry Turkle, MIT professor and author of [Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other](#). Her premise is that even as more and more people are projecting human qualities onto robots (i.e. digital toys like the Furby or Paro, designed to provide entertainment and comfort to the elderly), we have come to expect less and less from human encounters as mediated by the Net.

time at Butler University (Go Dawgs!) helping their IT Dept. through their "Journey"

*Susan Vaughn* will travel to Medco where she will continue developing the proper project management skills and workshops with their stakeholders.

**To learn more about RMA project management training and consulting, [email](#) us!**

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### Leveraging Tried and True Technology to Share Project Documents

Susan Vaughn, RMA facilitator, has been helping our clients who need a way to expand individual project management to group project management. If you'd like to figure out the best way to share project documentation using Sharepointe, Excel, MS Project or other technology you have, consider asking Susan to help you jumpstart the effort. Contact [Brittney](#) for more info.

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### A Learning Village

Check out what Thiagi is doing with his e-learning services. I love the way he and his team have built an approach that doesn't 'forget' all we know about how people learn and connect. Each of his e-learning services includes a 'village' which allows learners to customize how they want to learn including a playground (play games to learn), and a library (read documents). Learners decide how much or how little to do before taking the final test (for credit).

[www.thiagi.com](http://www.thiagi.com)

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### How Do You Know When It's Done?

Of Course, it's not done. It's never done.

That's not the right question.

The question is: when is it good

There is some challenging data about how and why we allow technology to drive our lives.

When we returned from our vacation, we moved my oldest daughter, Kelly, to Chicago to begin her new career as a Business Analyst at Allstate. If you have never left a child alone in a big city to start a new life, you can't imagine the grieving my husband and I went (and continue to go) through. How is it possible she can be this old? Life is short. I refuse to let it roll over me doing mindless tasks that keep me busy and unfocused.

This summer I have very ambitious goals for new services and products that will require me to stay off the road. The major challenge- how can we leverage all our available technology to connect rather than isolate? How can we build community and learning, not sound-bytes? These include:

- Completing the three month trial of our PM Virtual Mentor program (see update below)
- Finishing my new project management book for Pfeiffer
- Converting our 2-day workshops into stand alone, one hour, e-learning options for our customers
- Assessing and changing the useability of our website, including our e-store
- Creating an RMA virtual space with the same RMA 'voice'

To do this, I can't let email take over my life. I have to learn NOT to multi-task and say NO to say YES. I'll need more time off to re-energize and use the summer months to spend time with my children that are still at home while I can. Will you join me? And if you see a beautiful young woman in a little white car struggling to figure out how to navigate Chicago traffic, please be gentle.

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### PM Virtual Mentor Trial

We are in month two of our PM Virtual Mentor Trial. Eight talented project managers have paired up to share project challenges and ideas, learn new ways of thinking about projects, and participate in a community that is self-sustaining. If you or your company is interested in learning more about this web service, please contact Lou at

[lou@russellmartin.com](mailto:lou@russellmartin.com)

enough?

Good enough, for those that seek perfection is what we call it when it's sufficient to surpass the standards we've set. Anything beyond good enough is called stalling and a waste of time.

If you don't like your definition of 'good enough', then feel free to change that, but the goal before shipping is merely that. Not perfect.

From [Seth Godin's Blog](#) 6/23/11

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### PM Lessons Learned

I have had the privilege this year to work with McDonalds on growing their project management competence. Their IT organization has one of the best and simplest approaches to organizational project management that I've ever seen.

As I talked with the leader of this effort, he talked about encouraging people to do Lessons Learned frequently during a project; not just at the end. What a great idea! Think about the milestones of your projects, and take a minute to document what is going well and what you would do differently. You'll have an even more powerful log to grow competence when the project is over.



**Finally- A Computer Setting I Understand!**



A Stress Buster from the University Of Pittsburgh, Written by Rebecca Skloot

[Check out the Article Here](#)

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### July Contest

This month's contest is a word brain teaser.

I am a solitary word, 5 letters long.  
 Behead me, and I am still the same.  
 Behead me again, and I am still the same.



What word am I?

All submissions get 15 points. Correct answers receive 35 points!

#### **Q2 Winners!!!**

Dan Brandon & Amy Dinning each with 293 points! Fabulous merchandise is on it's way to you!

Email your answers to [Brittney](#) to make her day!

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