



Quality Now!

*The newsletter of the
Indianapolis Quality Assurance Association, Inc.*

Letter from our President

Our mission

To provide Quality Assurance professionals with a forum to share ideas, receive education and network with other professionals within the greater Indianapolis area.

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Let's continue to grow the IQAA! There are many ways for each of us to help with this endeavor. It is important that each member of this association consider their personal stake in the success of the organization and the benefits that are provided. We have seen tremendous success during the past year with contributions from many of our members. Some of the success stories include: steady growth in memberships, hosting certification exams with members becoming certified and steady attendance at our monthly members. We will continue the success but not without your help. It is important for our members to get involved and continue our positive trends.

One way to get involved is by participating on the Board of Directors. We will have several positions open later this year. The positions require attendance at the monthly board meetings for a 1-year term limit with option to extend. You will be able to network with other people that seek a desire to help the association continue to grow and make important business decisions that will impact the organization and members. There are role descriptions available for each role on the board, if you are interested please contact me at sherry.valenti@iqaa.org and I will send you additional information. Participating on the board is a great way to give back to your career and be recognized as a leader within the QA profession.

Another way to contribute is to speak to our members on a QA related topic. Each of us has knowledge that we can contribute and it is so important to share this information and personal experience to help others grow. I view the association as a family of professionals, therefore we need to help each other grow and bring

new perspectives on topics of interest. If you would like to present a topic at a monthly meeting, contact Mike Kelly, Director of Programs.

Finally, you can help us to grow by attending our monthly program meetings. These meetings are held at no charge to members and provide great information. In order to continue getting great presenters we have to show there is an interest in QA topics. As stated earlier, we have had great success with our monthly programs but we need to ensure that we continue to grow the number of people attending these sessions. We will start providing time for members to network with each other at the end of the meetings to help foster conversation between members.

The **Quality Enrichment Conference** is scheduled for Friday, October 7th. This event will be a day filled with keynote speakers, various programs and a vendor showcase. I am so excited about this conference because it will provide the opportunity for many local professionals to come together, share information and gain education without leaving central Indiana. This is milestone for all of us as it is a formal recognition for our profession. There have been many times that I wanted to attend conference or training session but could not because of budget constraints but that will not be the case with this conference. We will provide you with a professional conference for a minimal amount of money. More specifics on pricing, location, keynote speakers and track sessions will be coming soon.

Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication during the past year. Let's continue to take the IQAA to the next level.

Sincerely,
Sherry Valenti, IQAA President

Membership has its Privileges.....and It's FREE!

The Benefits of an IQAA Membership are as follows:

- Recognition as a participating Member of the Association
- No charge associated to attend 8 Regular Program Sessions per year
- Discounted Fees for attending the IQAA Conference
- Discounted Fee for attending any IQAA Sponsored Training Seminars
- Subscription to the IQAA Newsletter
- Access to checkout Quality Assurance Reference Material of 75+ Industry Related Books
- Certification Options Available with IQAA Supported Organizations
- Education, Information Sharing and Networking between IQAA Members
- Participation in Special Interest Groups sponsored by the IQAA

If you are interested in becoming an IQAA Member at no charge, complete the form on the [Be A Member page](#).

*"Good is not good
where better is
expected." -*

Thomas Fuller

Monthly Program Meetings

July 14, 2005 6-8 p.m.

Speaker: SPI Dynamics

Topic: Application Security

Location: L Ben Lytle Center

Description: Learn how a hacker tests your web applications for security defects workshop.

No Program meeting in August.

September 15 , 2005 6-8 p.m.

Speaker: Panel - Speakers from Regulated Industries

Topic: Discussion Panel on Computer Systems Validation in Regulated Environments

Location: Lawrence Library

Description: This panel will consist of quality and computer systems validation experts from regulated industries. They will provide insight into the additional constraints and considerations for computer systems governed by GxP (GMP, GCP, GLP etc.), HIPPA, Sarbanes Oxley, Privacy and others

IQAA Corporate Sponsors



IQAA Quality Enrichment Conference!

Friday, October 7, 2005
8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Better Quality Through Collaborative Software Development

This will be a day long event geared towards the Quality Assurance Professional. The day will be filled with training, seminars. Jonathan Kohl will be joining us as one of our key note speakers.

We hope that you will be able to attend this annual event.

The price to attend will be \$90.00 (early registration) and \$110.00 (after August 19, 2005).

The online registration form will be available on the www.igaa.org website soon. More information regarding the conference can be found at <http://www.igaa.org/events/seminars/index.php>.

CSTE/CSQA – Join a study group now.

IQAA will once again host the exams for the Quality Assurance Institute (QAI) CSTE (Certified Software Tester) and CSQA (Certified Software Quality Analyst) designations on **Friday, September 16**, at the Legacy Fund Community Life and Learning Center in Carmel. See www.igaa.org for details. And remember, the registration deadline at QAI is sixty days prior to the exam, which is **July 18**. Payment, your ethics statement, and your professional status confirmation must be received by QAI by that date. See www.softwarecertifications.org for details on how to register. Registration must be done through QAI and not through IQAA.

And IQAA is committed to your success in these certification efforts! Half-day prep classes for the upcoming exams will be held at Marion County Public Library – Lawrence Branch on **Saturday, September 10**, one week prior to the exams, and will be taught by IQAA members with QAI certifications. At \$100 per non-member, and only \$50 per IQAA member, these are a bargain. Click on “Prep Courses” under “2005 CSQA and CSTE Exam Schedule” at www.igaa.org for details and how to register.

Finally, IQAA Study Groups are in motion and moving candidates toward a “pass” on their exam! Three Study Groups are meeting on one evening on alternate weeks: CSQA-Central (downtown Indy),

CSTE-Central (downtown Indy at Indiana Farm Bureau), and CSTE-North (north side at Sallie Mae.) About twenty to twenty-five individuals from about ten organizations are participating and helping each other. Currently we are about half-way through each Body of Knowledge (CSTE and CSQA), but we welcome new members “mid-stream”, as some candidates may elect to take their exam on different dates, so pace yourself accordingly! Click on “Study Groups” under “2005 CSQA and CSTE Exam Schedule” at www.igaa.org for details, or go directly to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and request registration with IQAA_Study_Group.

Study Group members have also been impressed by the new editions of the QAI Prep Guides (Body of Knowledge), which have been condensed and edited for better focus on the material, and are available for \$100 each from QAI. See <https://qaiusa.securesites.com/secure/secureorder.html> for the online order form.

For more information please contact Ken Shafer, Director of Certifications at Ken.Shafer@igaa.org.

In March 2005, IQAA hosted 17 people for the CSTE/CSQA exams. 92% passed the exam.
Congratulations everyone!

Feature Article: Good Books on Software Testing – submitted by Mike Kelly

Last year I read numerous books on software testing. Over thirteen books had the words 'testing' or 'test' in the title. Of all of these, only four of them were really good books:

- [Lessons Learned in Software Testing](#)
- [Test-Driven Development: By Example](#)
- [How to Break Software: A Practical Guide to Testing](#)
- [How to Break Software Security: Effective Techniques for Security Testing](#)

Out of all thirteen, these were the only four I would recommend to someone who wanted to know about testing.

Most of the problems I found with the other books related to problems like the one I pointed out in "[Bad books on software testing](#)." Things like universal statements about what testing is and what it should be. Or authors who list techniques for working in unrealistic project environments. Processes and documentation schemes that would make you cry if you actually implemented ALL of it. Or possibly it's the fact that most authors show little references to where their research comes from (if they have any at all). Finally, in the last few books I read I found an overwhelming amount of time spent with the waterfall development model (and subsequently the v-model).

So where is all the good information on software testing?

Not in books on software testing!

This year, the best books I read on software testing had nothing to do with testing. If you want a good book on the basics of exploratory testing, read [Sometimes the Magic Works](#). If you want a book on performance testing, read [To Engineer Is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design](#). Need to know more about usability testing, read [The New Brain: How the Modern Age Is Rewiring Your Mind](#). If you want to become more effective in your role as a tester, read [Amplifying Your Effectiveness](#). And if you want to be better equipped to understand your project environment, corporate culture, and the inner dynamics of your test team, read [The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements](#).

I have concluded that *most* books on software testing are

Open Board Position

If you would like to become more involved with the IQAA board, the Director of Communications is open.

The board meets once a month to discuss the business of the IQAA and continue to improve the association for its members.

for people new to software testing. Of course this is purely anecdotal and based on the few books I have read (I do not claim to have an excessively large number of books on software testing).

I would however also point to a list of books recommended by Cem Kaner, James Bach, and Brett Pettichord. In Chapter Two of their book [Lessons Learned in Software Testing](#), titled "Thinking Like a Tester", how many books on software testing do you think they recommend? None.

They recommend:

- [Tools of Critical Thinking: Metathoughts for Psychology](#)
- [Thinking and Deciding](#)
- [The Craft of Research](#)
- [Cognition in the Wild](#)
- [Theory and Evidence: The Development of Scientific Reasoning](#)
- [Proofs and Refutations : The Logic of Mathematical Discovery](#)
- [An Introduction to General Systems Thinking](#)
- [Discovery of Grounded Theory: Strategies for Qualitative Research](#)
- [Basics of Qualitative Research : Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory](#)
- [Exploratory Data Analysis](#)
- [Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge](#)
- [Exploring Requirements: Quality Before Design](#)
- [How to Solve It](#)
- [Things That Make Us Smart: Defending Human Attributes in the Age of the Machine](#)
- [The Social Life of Information](#)

Of all these books, only one of them could be argued to be a book on software testing.

With that in mind, I need some more good books on testing, and for the coming year I think I'm done reading books on testing. Can you recommend a good book? Please feel free to post a book online at: <http://www.testingreflections.com/node/view/1310>

Links to all books listed above are also provided online.

If you have an interest in applying for either role or would like additional information contact Michael Osburn at Michael.osburn@iqaa.org. The roles and job descriptions are posted on the www.iqaa.org website.

Managers – Did you have to give up your unused training \$\$\$ in Q4 last year?**Don't wait. Register NOW!**

Don't wait too long to register your staff for the **Quality Enrichment Conference** to be held in **Indianapolis, October 7th**. Yes, that's correct. The conference will be held right here in the Indianapolis area! Only one day out of the office and no travel dollars to allocate!

Why not plan to use the day as a **Team Building Event!**

What better way to show your support of your Testing and/or QA team than by actually giving them a day to focus on their career growth.

This year's theme is "**Better Quality through Collaborative Software Development.**" Why not bring some of your developers along!

For more information, please visit our web site at:
<http://www.iqaa.org/events/seminars/index.php>.

*"People seldom
improve when they
have no other model
but themselves to
copy after."
-- Oliver Goldsmith*

Indianapolis Workshops on Software Testing

The Indianapolis Workshops on Software Testing (IWST) are an ongoing series of no-cost workshops for experienced software testers and related professionals. IWST strives to build skills in software testing and allows people who are interested in topics in software testing to network with their peers. The emphasis is on mutual learning, sharing hands-on experiences and solving practical problems. In these monthly meetings, experienced working practitioners discuss pertinent state-of-the-art topics.

Topics for upcoming meetings include:

- Maintaining testing skills - August 13, 2005
- Test patterns - September 10, 2005
- Test effort estimation - October 22, 2005

More information is available at www.IWST2005.com.

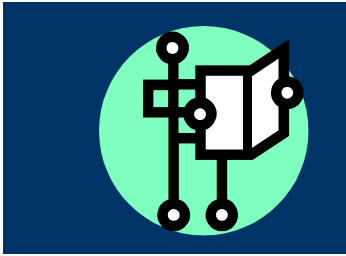
Indianapolis Rational User Group

The Indy Rational Users Group (IndyRUG) provides the opportunity to share knowledge and experience of the use of Rational Tools and the Rational Unified Process. The IndyRUG is in the process of reforming. Our monthly sessions will be starting again in **August 17th** and we will be meeting on the third Wednesday of each month thereafter. Check out <http://www.rational-ug.org/groups.php?groupid=30> for more information on contact information, locations, and upcoming speakers and topics.

The Journal of the Association for Software Testing

The Journal of the Association for Software Testing (<http://associationforsoftwaretesting.org/>) is seeking papers on the theory, practice, and teaching of software testing for its first issues. AST welcomes papers from scholars and from practitioners in the field. They will also consider proposals for special issues organized by a guest editor.

Submissions are welcome at any time, but the tentative deadline for articles for the first issue is September 1, 2005. To submit a paper, please send the manuscript to Cem Kaner, kaner@kaner.com



Indianapolis Quality Assurance
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*Where Quality
Meets Professionals*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.iqaa.org

What Were Those Dates Again?

Thursday, July 14, 2005	Application Security - SPI Dynamics
Monday, July 18, 2005	Deadline to register for the September 16th CSTE & CSQA Exams
Friday, August 19, 2005	Deadline for Early Registration for the Quality Enrichment Conference
Saturday, September 10, 2005	CSTE & CSQA Prep Courses
Thursday, September 15, 2005	Panel Discussion on Computer Systems Validation in Regulated Environments.
Friday, September 16, 2005	CSTE & CSQA Exam
Friday, October 07, 2005	Quality Enrichment Conference

Your feedback is important to us.

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Removal from Mailing List and more about IQAA

If you no longer want to be included on IQAA Newsletter and E-mail announcements, please send an E-mail to Shirley.halterman@iqaa.org using the E-mail address to be removed, stating REMOVE as the Subject and you will be removed from the e-mail list immediately. Please note that the e-mail address and information gathered by the IQAA will be used solely for the association and will not be released to any outside sources.

IQAA Inc. Certification Credit Policy Disclaimer

IQAA Inc. was established to promote software quality principles and practices within the Indianapolis-area companies. IQAA provides a forum for professionals to present and discuss software quality and process management within information systems, technology, and services. Our structure does not necessitate membership fees, nor do we provide membership acknowledgment or material. We understand that some certification boards may recognize organizations like IQAA to provide credits towards maintenance of their certifications. Our understanding is that many will accept either membership or demonstration of program attendance. IQAA encourages attendance at programs as the means to obtain credits. Any IQAA Member wanting to claim certification credits is encouraged to submit attendance to our programs for these credits. It is up to the individual to track their own attendance, retain program announcements and any handouts for programs attended when submitting certification credits for programs attended. IQAA cannot ensure that any specific certification board will recognize our programs or events for their certifications, and their interpretations and rulings prevail. IQAA does not provide evidence of any individual's or organizations actual attendance at any events or programs for the purpose of certification credits