

CAPacity

Newsletter for the ISA Certified Automation Professional® (CAP®)



Winter 2008

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CAP® Profile of the Quarter: Thomas Nash



For Thomas Nash, the greatest benefit of being an ISA Certified Automation Professional (CAP®) is the broader knowledge and insight he gained by preparing for and taking the exam. "Through the experience, I learned more about areas of automation I don't use on the job every day," he said. "I expanded my understanding of the entire automation process."

Nash works as the manager of automation integration at the Schering-Plough corporate headquarters in New Jersey. He joined the company as a computer validation engineer in 2002 and has held his current position since 2004.

Schering-Plough is a global health care company that develops pharmaceutical products for humans and animals.

Nash's responsibilities at the company include supervising automation engineers, writing technical bulletins and guidance documents for automation systems, designing and validating new systems, creating standards and specifications, and auditing suppliers and equipment vendors.

Though Schering-Plough does not require certification, Nash pursued the CAP designation as a personal goal. "I have always been interested in some sort of certification," he said. "I was glad ISA developed this certification program because there were none previously for automation professionals."

A member of ISA, Nash learned about CAP in an email from the organization. After investigating it on the ISA Web site, he decided to begin the process.

His certification and that of a co-worker brought the CAP program to his employer's attention. "Our group is relatively new, and certification for automation professionals is also relatively

new," Nash said. He believes the certification has increased his credibility with his peers and supervisors, and he is encouraging others in his work group to become certified.

In response to industry requests, ISA established the CAP program in 2004 to recognize and document the specialized knowledge, education, and experience of automation professionals. CAPs are responsible for the direction, design, and deployment of systems and equipment for manufacturing and control systems.

CAPs must renew their certification every three years. This is accomplished by earning Professional Development Points (PDPs) by working, training, and continually gaining knowledge in the field.

"I am expecting in the next few years that companies will look to hire only automation professionals who are certified."—Nash

To prepare for the exam, Nash used the CAP Learning System online and studied the recommended books and manuals. "The review course helped me identify the gaps in my knowledge of automation," he said, recommending it for anyone considering the exam. "The system forces you to learn things that you wouldn't otherwise have to learn."

In addition to the personal rewards of the certification, Nash anticipates deriving more value from it as awareness and understanding of the CAP expands within the industry. "As word gets out about the certification and recognition of it grows, it will become a valuable asset to my career development and marketability," he said. "I am expecting in the next few years that companies will look to hire only automation professionals who are certified."

Nash has worked in automation since 1995. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. He received his CAP certification in December 2007 and plans to renew it in 2010.

Right from the Automation Professionals' Book Shelves

Are you preparing for the CAP exam? If so, you'll want to take a look at the survey results of some highly recommended preparation literature. Nick Sands, CAP, an ISA Member and Process Control Engineer at DuPont with over 18 years of experience, surveyed a number of automation professionals to learn which resources they find most useful. Take a look at the results.



Top 3 ISA sellers:

- #1 Applying SIS Batch Control From a User's Perspective, by Jim Parshall and Larry Lamb
- #2 Calibration: A Technician's Guide, by Mike Cable
- #3 Control Boilers, 2nd Edition, by Sam Dukelow



Sands recommended these resources to a packed room at ISA EXPO this year. He noted the importance of having the most useful resources in preparing for certification and wanted to share his results with those who could not attend. According to Sands, "self development is accomplished through reading and learning from others." So get in gear for some self development and check out these handy resources if you haven't already!

Find these resources online at www.isa.org/books.

Top 3 references related to analyzers and safety:

- #1 The Instrument Engineers Handbook, by Béla G. Lipták
- #2 A Guide to the Automation Body of Knowledge, edited by Vernon L. Trevathan
- #3 Successful Instrumentation and Control Systems Design, by Michael D. Whitt

To Quiz or not to Quiz

By Kristy Becker, Certification Administrator

*To be, or not to be: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them?*

From Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, William Shakespeare

During the week of 15 September, I spoke to several ISA Members/EXPO alumni who questioned whether ISA was moving full steam ahead with ISA EXPO 2008. In the wake of Hurricane Ike, some wondered whether or not people would come, especially when so many locals had damage to deal with at home or on the job. And, many of us here in NC, home of



George Lister, CCST III left, Rahul Bhojani, CAP right

ISA headquarters, had to hunt for the gas we needed to get to work and face the additional challenges we faced in Houston created by Ike.

Fortunately for Houston, ISA EXPO did happen despite the effects from Hurricane Ike. The greater Houston area was thankful for our support of their event and hospitality industry, and the city itself. And, we had

our rabble-rousing slurry of questions to be answered at the second annual Certification Quiz & Conquer.

At the last minute, a CCST participant in the Quiz had

to drop out due to a situation at work that needed his attention. And, one CAP had a family illness that almost prevented him from attending. But, as they say in Hollywood, the show must go on. And the Subject Matter Experts I work with for developing and maintaining the CAP and CCST certifications pulled through.

There was pressure on the CAP, Rahul Bhojani of Bayer Technical Services to participate...he wanted to defend the **Ouch, it Megahertz's** title along with George Lister, CCST III, Instructor with Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater. The second team was saved by one (little) ISA Senior member pin – which I promised to Andy Johnsen, CCST III, of Southlake Systems Services Inc. in Indiana – if he could be my CCST replacement. Henrik Christiansen, CCST III and CAP, with CDI Engineering Solutions, was the second member of **The Over-Analyzers**, and back for a second shot at Ouch it Megahertz.

Greg Lehman, CAP, with Washington Division, URS Corporation, really perfected his skill of not giving one team an advantage



Greg Lehman, CAP, George Lister, CCST III, and Rahul Bhojani, CAP

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Why Certify?

Conversations about the benefits of certification were on the menu at the CCST and CAP Certification Networking Luncheon at ISA EXPO in Houston, Texas on 15 October. Attendees included those who are currently certified and candidates from both of ISA's certification programs. Other attendees included a number of people who would take the certification exam during ISA EXPO, ISA instructors, ISA authors, and members of the ISA staff.

Networking luncheon participants entertained the topic of why certification was and still is a goal for them. Some even provided insights into how the automation profession is now favoring continuing education and certification now more than ever.

ISA instructor Tom Stokes, CCST III, took part in the discussions during the luncheon. According to Stokes, "Companies are looking for candidates with at least a 2-year degree and certification. Industry certification is becoming a standard."

The top reasons for professionals to pursue certification, as discussed at the luncheon, included job portability, credibility within the community, and a greater breadth of industry knowledge.

George Lister, CCST III, noted that certification is a great tool for personal development. He suggested to

luncheon attendees who are preparing for certification exams to use the self-study guides to help prepare for certification exams. "The study guides allow you to evaluate potential exam

content that you may encounter," said Lister. For CCST and CAP luncheon participants, this was a prime opportunity to meet new acquaintances, engage in technical conversations with fellow certified peers (that they just can't have anywhere else), and address how ISA certification was a goal for them. The top reasons for professionals to pursue certification, as discussed at the luncheon, included job portability, credibility within the community, and a greater breadth of industry knowledge. There was a consensus among participants on how certification will increase their marketability and symbolize personal achievement.



Samuel White, Sr. Process Control Engineer, Lyondell Basell

We are happy to announce that 34 people took certification exams during ISA EXPO and 29 passed! We look forward to welcoming them in the next newsletter.

A listing of those certified in an ISA program can be found on each program's web page. If you missed this year's networking luncheon, please make plans to join us next October during ISA EXPO in Houston, Texas. If you have any questions before then, visit www.isa.org/certify or contact ISA Customer Service at (919) 549-8411.

QUIZ *Continued from page 2*

over the other as MC of the competition. Looking svelte in his black ISA Denver Section polo, you could not miss his voice carry across the aisles. Or his looks at me for some quiz questions he just did not like. Several other ISA peers popped in, like Harald Langer of S & B Engineers and Constructors, who earned his CAP at ISA EXPO 2007, and back again this year, Michael Rothaupt from DELCORA.

ISA Certification Quiz & Conquer is a fun way to show potential certification candidates that CAPs and CCSTs have so much knowledge, and that they too can achieve one of the designations. There is no grand prize for winning the Quiz (yet), but there are bragging rights! They do the quiz for the fun of it and to promote the designations.

If someone you know is asking the same question as Hamlet, help them make "be"ing a CAP or CCST a goal for 2009. Check out the website for the latest news, and the newest CAPs and CCSTs at www.isa.org/certify or contact ISA Customer Service at (919) 549-8411.

Welcome New CAPs

Congratulations to our newest group of Certified Automation Professionals!

Paul E. Darnbrough
KDC Systems / Dynalectric

Joseph G. O'Brien
Wyeth Biopharma

Hesham E. Fandy
Halliburton

Muhammad M. Mustafa
INTECH Process Automation Inc

Khalid K. Al-Ghamdi
Saudi Aramco

Jayant Ramdas Rane
Saudi Aramco

Pinakin Suresh Gokhale
Ibn Sina National Methanol Co

Pran Joiner Sammsanti

Chad G. Harper
Maverick Technologies

Raymond Morgan
Invista

Jasper Ike
West African Gas Pipeline Co

Ryan Michael Scofield
Rhodia Inc

John A. Kinsley
Saudi Aramco

James B. Williams
Loman Control Systems



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- Automation Engineer
- Control Systems Engineer
- Plant Manager
- Systems Integrator

FAQs

Can I Complete the CAP Application Online?

The CAP application process has been streamlined. Applicants will only supply the back-up documentation of work experience, education, or training if their application is audited. You can now apply using an online fill-in form. It takes just minutes. Visit www.isa.org/cap and get started on the path to certification today. Submit an application now for Window 1 in 2009, or another Window in 2009.

When are the 2009 Electronic Testing Windows?

ISA certification exams are available during three testing windows. You must postmark or submit your application by the deadlines below in 2009.

Exam Testing Window	Exam Application Postmark Deadline
Window 1: 1 March 2009 – 30 April 2009	Thursday, 15 January 2009
Window 2: 1 1 July 2009 – 31 August 2009	Friday, 15 May 2009
Window 3: 1 November 2009 – 31 December 2009	Tuesday, 15 September 2009

When are the 2009 ISA Spring Training Dates?

30 March - 2 April 2009 • Philadelphia Airport Marriott



Founded in 1945, ISA (www.isa.org) is a leading, global, nonprofit organization that is setting the standard for automation by helping over 30,000 worldwide members and other professionals solve difficult technical problems, while enhancing their leadership and personal career capabilities. Based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, ISA develops standards; certifies industry professionals; provides education and training; publishes books and technical articles; and hosts the largest conference and exhibition for automation professionals in the Western Hemisphere.

Certification

ISA certification provides an objective, third-party assessment and confirmation of a person's skills, and gives them the opportunity to stand out from the crowd and be recognized. ISA currently offers three certification programs: Certified Automation Professional® (CAP®), Certified Control Systems Technician® (CCST®), and Certified Industrial Maintenance Mechanic® (CIMM®).