CAST 2015

| K | Keynote | M | Meal-Break | P | Plenary | R | Registration | S | Social | T | Track Session | L | Tutorial |

| W | webCAST | H | Workshop |

AUGUST 3 • MONDAY

| 8:00am – 9:00am | M | **Breakfast** | Ambassador East |

French Toast Buffet
Fried Potatoes
Bacon
Turkey Link Sausage
Yogurt
Fruit
Breads/muffins
Coffee, tea, water & juice

| 8:00am – 9:00am | R | **Registration** | Registration Desk |

Volunteers: Dawn Haynes, Dee Ann Pizzica

| 9:00am – 5:00pm | L | **Mobile App Coverage Using Mind Maps** | Vandenberg B |

Speakers: Dhanasekar Subramaniam

All testers know to derive functional tests from the available requirements. But the key problems in mobile app testing is factoring in mobile devices integrated features like orientation, location tracking, notifications and demanding and impatient mobile phone users.

Join Dhanasekar Subramaniam to discover how to create better test coverage models using mind maps for apps build on iOS and Android. Explore to design tests using LONG FUN CUP test model at the UI level to identify issues beyond the usual functional and non-functional testing. Even if a smartphone app has a sleek UI, users will uninstall the app if it drains their battery, crashes frequently or wastes the user's data plan. Learn how to design mobile tests and what tools he uses to uncover issues hidden under mobile UI.

Dhanasekar will demonstrate and consult the audience on providing better test coverage for mobile apps using mind maps, do session based testing, simplify a complex looking testing problem and ensure no wandering and accountable mission based mobile app testing success.

| 9:00am – 5:00pm | L | **Speaking Truth to Power: Delivering Difficult Messages [SOLD OUT]** | Governors Room |

Speakers: Fiona Charles

A passion for the truth is essential for a tester. But the truths we uncover in the exercise of our craft can be bad news to our co-workers or to people who hold more power in the hierarchy than we do.

Testers are paid to deliver unwelcome messages. Too often, the interaction doesn't go as well as we'd like and we have to deal with adverse reactions ranging from merely disbelieving to downright hostile.

Delivering bad news well takes courage and skill, as does dealing with many of the recipient's reactions. For most people, the ability to do these things at all—let alone well—does not come easily.

In this tutorial, we will practice delivering difficult messages and addressing the fallout, building relevant skills and knowledge along the way. We will explore the factors that can inhibit us in delivering a message, as well as those that might influence a recipient's reactions.

Topics we'll cover include:

- Common pitfalls in delivering difficult messages, and how to avoid them
- Questions to ask and things to do before we speak
- Strategies, models and techniques that can help us understand and deal with difficult conversations successfully

 Delivering unwelcome news isn't fun, but we can have fun exploring and practicing how to do it. This tutorial will consist primarily of experiential exercises and debriefs. We will practice with real situations that have happened for real testers, including past or current problems brought by participants.

| 9:00am – 5:00pm | L | **Testing Fundamentals for Experienced Testers [SOLD OUT]** | Gerald R Ford Room |

Speakers: Robert Sabourin

Through years of experience you have mastered testing in your domain. But are important bugs still slipping by? Can you transfer your skills to new applications? Why can't others get the job done? Test fundamentals can help. Rob Sabourin breaks testing fundamentals into five areas, philosophy, scientific method, problem solving, math and rhetoric. Test philosophy improves purposeful testing revealing truths about what testing can and cannot do. Scientific method provides frameworks to advance knowledge confirming or refute conjectures while designing great test experiments. Many problem solving strategies exist based on modeling knowledge and the unknown. Math (discrete, logic, combinations and probability) improves test design and result interpretation. Rhetoric skills improve tester's communication, argumentation and persuasion.

Applying testing fundamentals focuses testing, closes gaps, eliminates waste and helps you do the right things well. Rob teaches you "how to know about what to test" and "what to know about how to test".

9:00am – 5:00pm	L	**"Follow-your-nose" Testing – Questioning Rules and Overturning Convention [SOLD OUT]**

Speakers: Christin Wiedemann   Vandenberg A

Is testing really keeping up with the advances of software development? Are our testing approaches evolving as quickly as the new technologies, or are we being left behind, using the same methods and techniques as we did a decade ago?

Testing needs to get more innovative, find new ways to test more efficiently and effectively, and to better adapt to each unique context. The first step is to realize that testing is not about finding answers, but about asking questions. Nobel laureate Dr. Michael Smith advocated "follow-your-nose research" in his field, biotechnology; he was willing to pursue new ideas even if it meant that he had to learn new methods or technologies. Similarly testers should do "follow-your nose testing", exploring new approaches and questioning old habits.

This tutorial suggests an approach for test planning that encourages innovation and overcomes barriers to quality. Through a cogent discussion of ideas around brainstorming, collaboration and creativity, you are provided with new insights that can help you revolutionize the test industry! Working in smaller groups we explore different examples of test challenges we have experienced ourselves, covering topics ranging from tools and environments to methodologies and teams. Using our new tools for encouraging innovation through collaboration, we try to come up with revolutionary suggestions for how to address these challenges. Focusing on asking the right questions, we might also come up with a few answers.

Takeaways

- A presentation of ideas about why testing needs to get more innovative
- Why classic brainstorming doesn't work, and how to build creative, innovative teams
- Tools to re-invent testing practices
- An understanding of what "follow-your-nose testing" is, and how to apply it on any software development project

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10:30am – 10:45am	M	**Break**	Foyer

Coffee, tea, water & soft drinks

12:00pm – 1:00pm	M	**Lunch**	Ambassador East

Open Pit BBQ Buffet
 - Vegetarian options available
Coffee, tea, water & soft drinks

3:00pm – 3:15pm	M	**Break**	Foyer

5:45pm – 6:30pm	S	**Tips and Tricks for New Speakers**	Vandenberg B

Speakers: Robert Sabourin

This is a short, informal session for people who are new to speaking at conferences or are interested in speaking but have never done it before. Rob Sabourin will walk you through a relaxed session and share ideas and lessons from his great repertoire and experience.

6:00pm – 6:30pm	S	**Facilitator Meeting**	Vandenberg A

Moderators: Peter Walen
Volunteers: Dee Ann Pizzica

Review what facilitators do at CAST, make sure everyone is comfortable with the role and is ready for the start of the conference itself.

| 7:00pm –
11:00pm | S | **"Beer Testing" Tour** | Lyon Street Entrance to Hotel |

This is an extra session, not part of the conference or tutorials. Grand Rapids has been featured in several beer magazines and was named "Beer City" for the number an quality of the breweries that call the city home. We are offering a "Tour" of some of the local breweries, including Founders, Mitten Brewing and Grand Rapids Brewing Company.

This features a rotating shuttle from the venue to each of the locations, with around 15 minutes between each bus pulling up. The shuttles will run between 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM.

The per-person cost is $15 to cover the cost of the shuttle buses. *This does not include any beer – just hassle-free transportation.*

Starting at 7:00 PM, Monday evening, a shuttle bus will leave the Grand Plaza (Lyon Street entrance) and head to the following locations:

- Mitten Brewing (Long Road Distillers is also near-by)
- Founders Brewing
- Ionia Ave – with Grand Rapids Brewing Co and Hopcat Original
  (they are next to each other)
- Return to the Grand Plaza

The bus will return to each location in 15 to 20 minutes, depending on traffic.

To reserve a spot, click here.

K Keynote   M Meal-Break   P Plenary   R Registration   S Social   T Track Session   L Tutorial

W webCAST   H Workshop

AUGUST 4 • TUESDAY

| 8:00am – 9:00am | M | **Breakfast** | Ambassador East |

Scrambled Egg Buffet
Fried Potatoes
Turkey Bacon
Link Sausage
Yogurt
Fruit
Bread & muffins
Coffee, tea, water & juice

| 8:00am – 9:00am | R | **Registration** | Registration Desk |

Volunteers: Dawn Haynes, Dee Ann Pizzica

| 9:00am – 9:25am | P | **Welcome** | Ambassador West |

Volunteers: Peter Walen

| 9:25am – 10:45am | K | **Moving Testing Forward** | Ambassador West |

Speakers: Karen N Johnson

What is our current knowledge base? What gaps in our knowledge do we want to address? Who and where can we look to for continued learning? Karen outlines a way forward which includes contemplating yourself, your coworkers, the leaders in your life and the wider professional community. She envisions a future that involves more than just technology changes, but also changes in the business world and the evolving global economy. Karen looks at how business influences our careers, our opportunities and our future. After her ideas on how to think about how these ideas come together to move forward, Karen ends the session answering your questions, and ends with a proposal for how you can move testing forward.

| 10:45am – 11:05am | M | **Break** | Foyer |

Coffee, tea, water & soft drinks

| 11:05am – 12:20pm | T | **Building A Culture Of Quality, A Real World Example** | Vandenberg A |

Speakers: Josh Meier

"Quality is everyone's responsibility." This statement is frequently used in the software industry when talking about the role of a tester, often times without an explanation of what it means or how to achieve it. If there is a description provided, the focus is often on the skills and task of the tester. Focusing on the tester seems almost ironic when the statement talks about making quality *everyone's* responsibility.

So how do we make quality everyone's responsibility? We build a culture of quality; all the tools, skills, and processes in the world won't help raise the quality bar without quality being part of the DNA of the company. How the heck do we do that?

Josh will give real world examples from Amazon and Salesforce that have helped build and evolve a quality culture from the ground up. He will also share painful examples that can become a reality if you don't build quality into your culture.

| 11:05am – 12:20pm | T | **Learning To Lead: Making An Impact By Improving Yourself** | Governors Room |

Speakers: Carol Brands

Sometimes we recognize a need for improvement in our test organization, but it can be difficult to accomplish when you are not in a formal leadership position. For me, the solution was to first commit to self-improvement. I read blogs, magazines, and Twitter, and joined groups like Weekend Testing, Miagi-Do, and Software Development 24/7. I learned techniques like pair/collaborative testing and evaluating risks to determine what to test.

New projects and hallway discussions helped me introduce these techniques to my team. My relationships with the Customer Support team allowed me to introduce pair testing for training, replacing assigning scripts to new trainees. I improved coverage and reduced effort on a regression project by evaluating risk to determine which test cases to include. I started a team discussion on our existing test cases, and as a result, I've been asked to study how the team can write better test cases. By sharing self-improvement ideas and ways to build relationships inside and outside of the test team, attendees can learn to improve their test team's effectiveness.

| 11:05am – 12:20pm | T | **The Context Driven Tester In The Lean Startup** | Vandenberg B |

Speakers: Thomas Vaniotis

The Lean Startup movement focuses relentlessly on pushing value to customers quickly and reducing waste, in part through encouraging a culture of exploration and experimentation. As testers, we can apply our critical thinking and analysis skills, and our willingness to be creative and notice what no one else does to greatly improve product/market fit and generate revenue-producing information for our firms. In this talk, we will examine some of the main ideas of the Lean Startup movement (build-measure-learn, A/B testing, minimum viable product, and continuous innovation) in the light of the principles of context-driven testing. The current interest in Lean techniques in the enterprise indicates a massive demand for testing skills that may not be identified as such. We will map our experiences as testers to the Lean Startup ideas (and buzzwords) to assist in making the case for a crucial role for testers in the product marketing function.

| 11:05am – 12:20pm | T | **From Test Cases to Context-Driven: A Startup Story** | Ambassador West |

Speakers: Gary Miller

The financial industry is notorious for its unwillingness to change. Change is often avoided unless absolutely necessary, and usually at the behest of company executives. This is the story of Gary's journey moving from test cases to context-driven testing in a start-up financial technology company and the invitation to change that never arrived.

He felt motivated to change the company's approach and moved from a test case culture to a testing program based on a heuristic test strategy model. This journey required planning, passion, a leap of faith, and applying other tester's advice and experiences. His team incorporated techniques and approaches learned in rapid software testing, learning many lessons through this experience.

Gary will show you how to plan your own journey towards context-driven testing and how to gain confidence in enacting that change. Additionally, he will show how to combine community advice with your own experience to catalyze improvements and forward momentum. He will also share tips on how to obtain support from people who matter, and how your passion for testing can help teams embrace change.

| 12:20pm – 1:30pm | M | **Lunch** | Ambassador East |

Southwest Lunch Buffet
Coffee, tea, water & soft drinks

| 1:30pm – 2:45pm | T | **Should Testers Code?** | Governors Room |

Moderators: Erik Davis
Speakers: Henrik Andersson, Jeffrey "Cheezy" Morgan
Some people have suggested that the days of the human, thinking-only tester are numbered. Others believe that time writing code means time spent not testing, and that coding subtly changes the perspective of the tester away from the customer.

We invited two leaders in the field, Henrik Andersson and Jeff "Cheesy" Morgan, to assume these opposing positions and lead a debate. Hear both perspectives, see what aligns with your context, and make your own informed decision to move your own part of test forward.

| 1:30pm – 2:45pm | T | **Testing Is Your Brand: Sell It!** | Ambassador West |

Speakers: Kate Falanga
Do you feel misunderstood? Do you feel like what you do isn't respected by those you work with? Are you afraid for the future of testing at your company? You aren't alone. Those feelings are common in the testing community. Most people feel that there is nothing they can do to help the situation.
This interactive talk will give individuals the tools they can practically use to become the solution they are looking for. We'll dive into how to own your own reputation, the importance of setting clear expectations, and how to talk to non-testers about testing. This may sound like marketing … and that's because it is.
As the Director of Quality Assurance at a Digital Advertising Agency Kate Falanga has seen where marketing and testing can successfully merge. Testing is a brand and you represent that brand. Are you Walmart or Tiffany's? You decide. Here's how.

| 1:30pm – 4:15pm | H | **Black Box Accessibility Testing: A Heuristic Approach** | Vandenberg B |

Speakers: Albert Gareev
In United States and parts of Canada, Accessibility is the hot topic because of the laws (Section 508, AODA) and compliance deadlines that are coming up. Businesses are struggling in attempts to meet the compliance requirements both "in the letter and in the spirit". It is indeed tricky, especially for the Web Accessibility.
Often, software developers find themselves unfamiliar with the requirements model, given by Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). Product owners find holistic accessibility concept conflicting with feature-driven delivery approach. Testers are getting lost, too - there are no clear expected results they are used to verify.
In the workshop, authors provide practical and effective heuristic methods of accessibility testing regardless of availability of detailed requirements. In agile team, testers will also be able to contribute to accessible design and development.
Presentation includes overview of the following:

- Special needs that require accessibility
- Assistive technologies
- Accessibility of Web Elements

Accessibility Testing techniques include coverage of the following:

- Accessible Scanning
- Accessible Reading
- Accessible Navigation and Operation

| 1:30pm – 4:15pm | H | **What's My Context?** | Vandenberg A |

Speakers: Fiona Charles

We talk about context and we identify ourselves as driven by context. But do we really understand what "context" means? Let's get together and find out!

In this interactive workshop, we'll use group exercises to explore the idea of context and some practical means for helping to discover it:

- Its dimensions and attributes (as many as we can think of)
- Its manifestations
- Heuristics for discovering context elements of it that may be essential others that could be peripheral

A final debrief will give participants the opportunity to consolidate and share their insights and experiences.

| 3:00pm – 4:15pm | T | **Feedback And Its Importance In Delivering High Quality Software.** | Governors Room |

Speakers: Ken De Souza

Broadly, feedback comes in three forms: appreciation, coaching and evaluation. Often the receiver wants to hear one type of feedback, while the giver actually means something else. In your testing career, you will need to understand how to give and receive feedback, from bug reports to discussing quality with executives. Ken will share his experiences of the feedback process during various points in his software development career.

Areas where this type of information will help you:
- Coaching: giving and receiving comments during test case and session-based reviews.
- Evaluation: developing relationships with various levels of management where criticism is encouraged and used to move the organization forward.
- Appreciation: helping to preserve the value of the software you are testing.

Think bug reports.

Attendees will take away:
- How to give and receive feedback, by identifying the various triggers
- Ways of practicing it in a safe environment

| 3:00pm – 4:15pm | T | **Visualizing Testability** | Ambassador West |

Speakers: Maria Kedemo

The simplest way Maria Kedemo knows of describing testability is "How easy it is to test a specific product". Low testability would be anything that slows you down or makes it harder to test. Frustrated testers might be a symptom of such. A high degree of testability helps not only testers, but everyone involved in the development of the product.

Through out her career as a test manager she has seen her fellow testers suffer daily from things affecting their testing negatively. Flaky test environments, buggy code, exclusion from relevant information, difficulties in creating test data and lack of knowledge in a specific domain were only a few of the problems.

The suffering was not the testers' alone. It affected the project, the development teams and the organization. So Maria decided to make "Visualizing Testability" the mission for year 2014, thus moving testability forward to a common awareness and ownership.

Maria will share:
- Why she thinks testability is important.
- The problems lack of testability caused.
- How techniques used to visualise testability helped her team.
- How helping non-testing peers understand testability helped her team.

| 4:15pm – 4:45pm | M | **Break** | Foyer |

Coffee, Tea, Water & Soft Drinks
Snacks (healthy and un-healthy)

| 4:45pm – 6:00pm | T | **A leap towards Context Driven Testing** | Vandenberg B |

Speakers: Erik Brickarp

Early 2012, at a multinational telecom company, Erik Brickarp joined a new team. The orders were clear: "the team's output must stay the same as everyone else's." Output meant, among many things, big document templates and loads of test cases.

In the end the team had for its context, a lightweight and open test process where various flavors of exploratory testing were a common approach.

But it took quite an adventure to get there.

| 4:45pm – 6:00pm | T | **Bad Metric, Bad** | Vandenberg A |

Speakers: Joseph Ours

Metrics have always been used in corporate sectors, primarily as a way to gain insight into what is an otherwise invisible world. Not only that, "standards bodies", such as CMMi, require metrics to achieve a certain maturity level. These two factors tend to drive organizations to blindly adopt a set of metrics as a way of satisfying some process transparency requirement. Rarely do any organizations apply any statistical or scientific thought behind the measures and metrics they establish and interpret.

In this talk, we'll look at some common testing metrics and discuss why they fail to represent what most people believe they do. We'll discuss the real purpose of measures, issues with measure and metric programs, how to leverage measure and metrics effectively, and finally specific measure and metric pitfalls organizations encounter.

| 4:45pm – 6:00pm | T | **Growing Testers from the Ground Up** | Governors Room |

Speakers: Megan Studzenski

Megan was a former tester. Now, she trains testers.

She is responsible for her QA department's three-year-old New Employee Orientation program. Her job? She runs a week-long curriculum that immerses new employees into her company's software, and then, introduces them to basic testing concepts.

The successes? New employees are more prepared to contribute right away, according to management. All employees now have a common base of knowledge upon which they are expected to be able to build.

The challenges? Many new employees have no experience testing. The class size might be one employee, or ten. If an employee falls behind early in the week, catching up can be difficult.

The plans? Expand the program. Offer classes and workshops for new employees over a six-month span. Create classes in performance testing, working with databases, and a pair testing workshop. Use tester games to help teach testing fundamentals.

The fledgling program helps create better-equipped testers. Let Megan share how.

What you can expect from this session:

- Ideas on how to educate brand-new testers
- Stories of what worked and what didn't
- An outline of their program
- How her team keeps department leadership "in the loop"

| 4:45pm – 6:00pm | T | **Using Feedback to Reduce Truthiness** | Ambassador West |

Speakers: Jeffrey Woodard

"My team is great! They all love what they're doing and we work together as a really cohesive unit." Are you a testing manager that would use similar words to describe your team? What evidence or facts do you base your description upon? If your answer includes references to your intuition or "gut," then you are practicing truthiness - stating what you wish or believe to be true, rather than the facts.

As a leader, facts and reality should far outweigh truthiness. Feedback is an essential and powerful tool to use to determine what is real – for you as well as your team.

Join Jeffrey as he shares his thoughts on seeking, giving, and receiving feedback. Topics to be included:
● Truthiness in the context of testing and leadership?
● Developing the feedback habit
● Heuristics to use to improve the feedback you give and receive
● Creating a culture of feedback can strengthen a team

| 6:30pm – 7:30pm | W | **CAST Live** | Ambassador West |

Volunteers: Dee Ann Pizzica, Benjamin Yaroch

"CAST Live" is a show broadcast live each evening following the close of the conference. CAST Live is hosted by Benjamin Yaroch and joining Ben again this year will be Dee Ann Pizzica. Each night Ben and Dee will recap that days events, interview influential testers, and discuss all things testing.

We will be broadcasting live both evenings, so stick around after the close of the conference and watch "CAST Live."

Tonight:
"Notes on the Keynotes" with Robert Sabourin
Interview: Training Testers with Megan Studzenski
Panel Discussion: Hiring Testers with Rob Bowyer

| 6:30pm – 8:30pm | S | **Reception** | Ambassador East |

Join us for a cocktail, light hors d' oeuvre, and socializing.

| 6:30pm – 9:30pm | S | **Testing Games** | Ambassador East |

Join us for a CAST tradition, tester games. Test your testing abilities with dice and card games.

| 7:00pm – 8:30pm | P | **Lightning Talks** | TBA |

A CAST tradition - Short presentations on topics abput or related to software and testing. Informal and fast paced.

| K | Keynote | M | Meal-Break | P | Plenary | R | Registration | S | Social | T | Track Session | L | Tutorial |

| W | webCAST | H | Workshop |

AUGUST 5 • WEDNESDAY

| 8:00am – 9:00am | M | **Breakfast** | Ambassador East |

Scrambled Egg Buffet
Fried Potatoes
Turkey Sausage
Bacon
Cheese Blintzes
Fruit
Breads & muffins
Coffee, teat, water & juice

| 9:00am – 9:25am | P | **Announcements** | Ambassador West |

Volunteers: Peter Walen

| 9:25am – 10:45am | K | **The Future of Testing Is Here** | Ambassador West |

Speakers: Ajay Balamurugadas

With technology changes being the only constant, it is challenging to predict what "moving forward" means for the industry in general, let alone you, the person attending this conference. A few ideas on the horizon include the future of centers of excellence, rise of more startups and test consultants. These will be closely challenged by industry practices such as crowd sourced testing approach, artificial intelligence and IBM's Watson. Some ponder on why software testing is not included in educational institutions and we might also consider the inter subjectivity revolution and the various modes of self-learning. Will we have an All-in-One standard and one big school of software testing?

The debate about programmers learning testing and testers learning to code might keep us busy for few more years. With the increased emphasis on para-functional tests, will we see a different testing strategy going forward? Let us not forget the impact of social media on the product and organization's reputation and the ever changing customer expectations. These are the sorts of things Ajay Balamurugadas thinks about when he considers the term 'Moving Testing Forward'. Some of them seem to have a definite answer, others are less clear. Ajay takes a look at the recent past and present to project at least one possible future (and likely many.), suggesting that we brainstorm on some of the authentic problems and revisit the unknown unknowns. Join Ajay, as he presents his perspective of the times ahead - His journey filled with rich stories and failures, and other experiences might just trigger a few ideas on how to take testing forward in your context.

| 10:45am – 11:05am | M | **Break** | Foyer |

Coffee, tea, water & soft drinks

| 11:05am –
12:20pm | T | **Experiences from Asking Outsource Partners to Shift to Context Driven Testing** | Governors Room |

Speakers: Phil McNeely, Carl Shaulis

A continuing trend in software development is the move to outsourced developers and in our case specifically, testers. Usually this is done for cost measures and has little to do with the effectiveness or quality of the testers employed. Many of these test organizations have a set strategy they use for testing. Their testing paradigm attempts to account for the lack of timely communication and physical proximity by utilizing a "more is better" philosophy with little thought put into testing in a risk-based or context driven approach.

Phil and Carl will share a journey on how HomeAway attempted to move three outsource partners from traditional testing paradigm to the Context-Driven School of software testing.

This talk will present actions taken to educate these partners, the challenges that were presented, the tooling that was leveraged, and the final outcomes.

How many outsource partners do you think were successful in making this transition?

| 11:05am –
12:20pm | T | **Reason And Argument For Testers** | Vandenberg A |

Speakers: Scott Allman, Thomas Vaniotis

A key part of a tester's skill is the ability to convince others that the information they are presenting is true. This skill can be enhanced by the tools of analytical philosophy, which make up a framework for rigorously converting everyday rhetorical conversation into formal arguments that can be analyzed and discussed rationally. In this talk, we will present basic argument analysis: distinguishing between validity and soundness, identifying the type of reasoning used in an argument, and signs of common fallacies. We will also demonstrate that disputes are often a result of hidden or misidentified disagreements and how to use rational argument as a method of improved discourse. Finally, we will present some ideas in epistemology: belief, justification, and knowledge. The topics covered will be illustrated with examples from real-world experiences that Thomas & Scott have encountered in the software testing community and in their professional experience.

| 11:05am –
12:20pm | T | **The World's First CDT Education** | Vandenberg B |

Speakers: Martin Nilsson

This track session is about the world's first Context Driven Test-education that runs over one and a half year is currently ongoing with two classes in Sweden and this presentation is about the thoughts behind and the challenges creating such an education. It is also about the results we could see from our students and the value they could provide from day one.

There are government sponsored professional educations that focus on specific needs of the industry and this year the Software Testing-education has been remade after a CDT-model. When structuring the education one thing was clear: One and a half year is really not that much time for covering even the most common test contexts so we had to limit ourselves and focus on the core of testing, giving a solid foundation for the students to develop their skills on.

| 11:05am –
12:20pm | T | **The Art and Science of Questioning** | Ambassador West |

Speakers: Jess Ingrasselino, Ed.D

As skilled testers, asking good questions about the object under test is of the utmost importance. However, asking just any random questions will not do. How do we, as testers, decide what questions to ask? Social science, specifically the practices used in qualitative research, can provide testers with methods to ask more revealing questions, enhancing our testing process and providing our stakeholders with better information to make decisions about the product.
Attendees of this talk will learn about specific questioning techniques, such as becoming more mindful of harmful assumptions, embracing doubt, and examining themselves and their non-testing experiences as generative to their own testing process.

| 12:20pm – 1:30pm | M | **Lunch** | Ambassador East |

Grand Burger Lunch Buffet
-- Vegetarian Options Available
Coffee, tea, water & soft drinks

| 1:30pm – 2:45pm | T | **Beyond the UI: Becoming a More Technical Tester** | Governors Room |

Speakers: Erica Walker

Exploring the User Interface (UI) gives us a solid view of how software is functioning from the perspective of our users. But if this is our only view, how do we really know what's going on under the hood? Each of us has the ability to become a stronger, more well-rounded tester, and the journey begins with admitting that there's something more to learn. Some testers are apprehensive about becoming more technical because they do not know how to learn the skills, or because they lack confidence in their own ability to do so.

During this talk we will explore how to encourage ourselves and others to ask better questions, how to seek help from others, and how to learn about common tools used in testing. This session will give the encouragement to help testers as they take their next steps toward moving beyond the UI.

| 1:30pm – 2:45pm | T | **Visual Testing: It's Not What You Look At; It's What You See** | Vandenberg B |

Speakers: Mike Lyles

How many mundane tasks do we do in a day that, if we think about them, we don't actually remember anything about doing them? Our mind was in a different place and we were functioning on autopilot. Sometimes our eyes are so familiar with the things we see every day, our brains do not recognize when something has been taken or moved to a new location.

The TV show "Brain Games" is based on the premise where the audience is asked to pay attention and focus on what is happening. Focusing on a specific area or activity prohibits the audience from seeing things that are going on around them. This "inattentional blindness" causes key details to be missed. Our brain is the most complex tool we have in our possession. However, with a highly complex tool comes the need to ensure that it is used appropriately and to its full potential.

In testing, such focused concentration leading to "inattentional blindness" can impact the product being delivered. We must find a way to constantly challenge our visual images and prohibit our brain from accepting that there are no changes which could impact the quality of the product. It is critical to be aware of the entire surroundings of the testing activity and to be able to recognize and call out changes that may be easily overlooked without an attention to detail.

In this session, Mike Lyles will challenge participants to "think outside the box". There will be specific exercises to show how that the human mind sometimes overlooks details when they seem visually insignificant or unrelated. We will examine how testers can become better prepared for such oversights and discuss strategies that can be used immediately in your organizations. The key to eliminating the risk of oversight and missed problems is learning how to identify the areas where we may have originally ignored a focused effort.

Key Takeaways:

- An understanding that no matter how good we believe we are as testers, we have to realize that there is the possibility of being so familiar with a product that our eyes do not notice changes that sneak in.
- Tips to recognizing patterns and potential gaps that many visual testing activities may miss.
- Techniques that can be used in becoming a better visual tester.

| 1:30pm – 2:45pm | T | **Fomenting Change** | Ambassador West |

Speakers: Barbara Streiffert

Many companies are risk averse, especially when the risk is to human life and/or involve significant financial impact. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) builds, launches and operates spacecraft that flyby, orbit and roam planets, moons and asteroids in our Solar System. Loss of a mission and the scientific knowledge that can be obtained by the mission is the highest concern, and engineers focus their talents on obtaining high science return by ensuring spacecraft safety. In addition, because spacecraft are unique and can cost billions of dollars to build and operate, the loss of a spacecraft is very costly. The development and operations environments for missions are process heavy and risk averse, yet change is necessary to reduce costs and improve the quality of software used for the missions. It is difficult to marry change and risk aversion. An approach for changing software, software testing and processes include:

1. understanding the application and use cases
2. brainstorming ideas with yourself and/or with others
3. performing changes incrementally
4. obtaining approval or asking for forgiveness instead of permission
5. implementing the changes

This presentation will describe changes in the software testing at JPL (including pictures and videos) as well as describing the processes that leads to those changes.

| 1:30pm – 4:15pm | H | **From Velcro to Velocity: A Hands On Tactile TDD Workshop** | Vandenberg A |

Speakers: Robert Sabourin

You hear a fair amount about TDD and testing these days. Really, Test Driven Development is a development/programming approach in which unit tests are constructed prior to coding. Each increment tested is a new aspect of the software being developed. Developers create just enough of a unit test to fail and they write just enough code to pass the failing unit tests. Tests can be repeated to quickly catch unexpected changes.

Explore the strengths and weaknesses of this approach. Try it out with Rob using an *IDE* of black felt, laminated index cards and, of course, tons of velcro.

During this fun and highly interactive workshop you will create an application with TDD even if you have never programmed before. Rob lets you compare your results with answers from the teacher edition. He will also lead a group affinity analysis of TDD vs test after unit testing approaches. You may gain ideas in how testers can benefit from their development teams doing TDD.

| 3:00pm – 4:15pm | T | **Beyond the UI: Using Tools to Improve Testing** | Governors Room |

Speakers: Jeremy Traylor

As testers we have a wide range of tools that can help us gain a deeper understanding of the application being tested, and better understand the source of observed failures. When we observe defects in the UI, we may be uncertain whether the failure is a result of an errant request or an issue with processing by the middle tier. If the API is available for testing before the UI, we can lose valuable time by waiting for front-end code. In this session we will focus on using browser consoles, testing APIs, and validating results in a database.

Each section will be divided into a brief description, examples of application, and common tools and practices. Many tools are available at low or no cost within the browser, and these tools will help us provide more details to developers and management as we document issues.

3:00pm – 4:15pm	T	**Testing with a Zone Defense**	Vandenberg B

Speakers: Pamela Gillaspie

At one time or another, every tester hears the dreaded question, "Why didn't you guys catch these bugs?" We all have some standard responses (and they are most likely true), but what can we learn about our testing when we look beyond the easy answers? Pamela Gillaspie proposes that the key to improving your testing is determining the areas where bugs are slipping past your defenses. When you group the bugs into "zones", you can devise a strategy to cover these zones more effectively.

Join Pamela as she shares her experience as defensive coordinator, addressing the developers' playbook (What kinds of recurring problems do we see?), trick plays (The user is doing what?), and penalties (That wasn't in the requirements!)

3:00pm – 4:15pm	T	**Why Should I Hire You**	Ambassador West

Speakers: Rob Bowyer

As a test manager, coach and mentor, Rob has been involved in the careers of numerous testers. As a lifelong learner he tried to capture and absorb as much information about career development as he can.

Over time, he has cultivated a wealth of practical advice on managing and developing a career in software testing.

In this session he will share much of what he has learned over the years. So whether you're just starting out in software testing, looking to transition your career or just want to add to your tool kit, this session will have something for you.

4:15pm – 4:45pm	M	**Break**	Foyer

Coffee, Tea, Water & Soft Drinks
Snacks (healthy and un-healthy)

4:45pm – 6:00pm	T	**Driving Adoption of Chartered Exploratory Testing In An Agile Organization**	Vandenberg B

Speakers: Jesse Alford

Pivotal is adding the practice of explicit, directed exploratory testing to our work on Cloud Foundry. We have dedicated explorers who rotate through development teams. We use charters to organize exploratory efforts; PMs prioritize them in backlogs along with chores, bugs and features using Pivotal Tracker. Programmers pair with explorers on execution of charters, and explorers with programmers on feature delivery. We're developing charter writing and execution as skills throughout our development staff.

This experience report will discuss the adoption and integration of exploratory testing in the Cloud Foundry project at Pivotal. It will focus on challenges we've encountered and practices we've found effective in the context of Pivotal Labs' opinionated and refined agile process, which is rooted in Extreme Programming. We'll discuss how exploratory testing's been used to inform stakeholders, how they've recognized the business value of the practice, and techniques to make exploratory work something distinct from checks programmers write in TDD.

4:45pm – 6:00pm   T   **Waterfall, Agile and Beyond: The Power of an Exploratory Tester**   Vandenberg A

Speakers: Ajay Balamurugadas

This talk is about how testers skilled in exploratory testing can help any software project, no matter which development methodology is followed in the project.

Do you face a situation where the customers are expecting more in less time? Is your project stuck and teams are playing the blame game? Are customers finding important bugs before your test teams report? Are your testers struggling to cope up with the changes in testing models being used? Do you agree that though the models have evolved, the problems seem to reappear.

If you answered yes to above, meet Ajay Balamurugadas, a student of context-driven school of testing who answers these five important questions about 'The Power of an Exploratory Tester'.

1. What is Exploratory Testing and how is an exploratory tester more powerful?
2. Who can do exploratory testing?
3. Why exploratory testing is suited for most kinds of projects?
4. When exploratory testing should be performed?
5. Where do tools fit in exploratory testing?

4:45pm – 6:00pm   T   **When Cultures Collide**   Governors Room

Speakers: Raj Subramanian, Carlene Wesemeyer

What do these books have in common – "When Cultures Collide", "Understanding Cultural Differences", "Beyond Culture"? Yes, it involves people from different cultures trying to interact with each other and sustain in this diverse corporate environment which we now call – Our Workplace. This session is based on our real life experiences interacting, observing and working with people from different cultures, backgrounds, race, and religion in a corporate environment.

As testers, we had to understand and study how different verbal, oral and behavioral patterns are interpreted in different ways by different people. In this session, we try to highlight these different communication patterns with examples. We will show how understanding and recognizing these patterns can help testers to sustain and collaborate with others. As the saying goes, "Solutions are often simple but getting to it is complicated". Come join us as we share our research and experiences, and discuss how software testers can become more effective communicators.

| 4:45pm – 6:00pm | T | **Taking Control Of Your Test Environment** | Ambassador West |

Speakers: Ioana Serban

Most of us have had to deal with red builds blocking our testing or have been told to test on flaky environments where half the issues you find would 'never happen in production'. As a tester, I used to think this wasn't my problem.

What happens though when a thinking tester decides this is her problem and wants to be part of the solution?

This talk exposes some of the possible causes why builds stay red or an environment is "flaky". For instance:

1. There are bugs in your build.
2. You are dependent on a third-party system that is not functioning correctly.
3. Your deployment may have gone awry, something may be missing.
4. Your environment is not set up in a consistent way.

We'll look at some approaches that target each of these causes and show testers how they can acquire the skills necessary to take control of their test environment.

In case of bugs in existing functionality, you need to ask yourself: Are you running automated checks against the build? If yes, either you don't have the right checks in place, are ignoring failed checks, or, even worse, the issue is intermittent. Testers that seek out a deep technical understanding of their product can be capable of chasing an issue down the whole technology stack without relying on a developer.

Stubbing out a third-party service can counteract uncertainty about the functionality of your own product. To deal with the real issue though, a tester can communicate directly with the third-party team, providing information to and from both sides.

Testers can get involved with the automation of both the deployment and environment setup, which are traditionally Operations roles. This is also often the realm of "magic scripts" that are not considered part of the deliverables and are not properly tested. A tester's input can be very valuable here.

| 6:15pm – 6:30pm | P | **Closing** | Ambassador West |

Board Members: Peter Walen

Join Pete Walen as he shares his "take-aways" from CAST 2015 and a brief summary of key points gathered. He'll also encourage the participants to share their own nuggets of wisdom gained throughout the conference during the rest of the evening.

| 7:00pm – 8:00pm | W | **CAST Live** | Ambassador West |

Volunteers: Dee Ann Pizzica, Benjamin Yaroch

"CAST Live" is a show broadcast live each evening following the close of the conference. CAST Live is hosted by Benjamin Yaroch and joining Ben again this year will be Dee Ann Pizzica. Each night Ben and Dee will recap that days events, interview influential testers, and discuss all things testing.

We will be broadcasting live both evenings, so stick around after the close of the conference and watch "CAST Live."

Tonight:
"Notes on the Keynotes" with Rob Sabourin
Panel Discussion: Remote Working with Ben Simo and Stephanie Liu-Barnes (via Skype)
Interview: Becoming a More Technical Tester with Erica Walker

| 7:00pm – 9:30pm | S | **Testing Games** | Ambassador East |

Join us for a CAST tradition, tester games. Test your testing abilities with dice and card games.