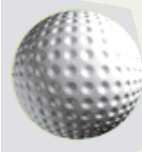




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.....8-9

○ ISSUE 6 | ○ VOLUME 84 | ○ FEBRUARY 2012

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## TECHNICAL ARTICLE

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In 2010, Northeast Mechanical was chosen by Rocco Termini's Signature Development to help with his ambitious plan to redevelop the historic Lafayette Hotel in Buffalo, NY. In its prime, the 367-room Lafayette Hotel was considered one of the 15 finest hotels in the country. It was designed principally by Louise Blanchard Bethune, the first professional woman architect in the country, the first female member of the American Institute of Architects, and the first woman to be made a Fellow of the A.I.A. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. The hotel will be converted into 115 one and two

bedroom apartments, a 34-room boutique hotel and a number of businesses, including a Butterwood Desserts outlet, a tuxedo shop, a jeweler, and a florist, making the hotel a "one-stop" wedding destination. The owners of the Pearl Street Brewery will also reopen the Lafayette Tap Room. The \$40 million project is currently on schedule to be ready for tenants to move in by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 with the grand opening date scheduled for May 1st. The project is being called the Hotel at Lafayette. Together Northeast Mechanical and Signature Development are transforming another forgotten area landmark into an architectural gem that will help drive the revitalization of downtown Buffalo.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I would like to propose a question to each of our members. What do you want out of the Engineering Society of Buffalo? Let me ask another question. Why did you join the Engineering Society of Buffalo? I have often asked these questions of myself. So, I will answer them. One of the answers was a network. I wanted to meet and to get to know other engineers working in different fields of engineering and engineers working in different companies. I also, wanted to learn firsthand about the experiences these engineers have in their jobs. In addition, I wanted to give back to the engineering community through our Scholarship race.

My good friend and ESB Past President, Jeff Salzmann, first introduced me to the ESB and the scholarship back in 2005. I thought it was a great idea to be able to provide scholarships to high school seniors who were pursuing engineering degrees from local colleges. So I joined

the ESB to be more involved in the race and not just a race day volunteer. This has morphed into election to the Board of Directors, which led to me being Vice President and ultimately the President. I feel these positions have enhanced my resume. Thus, an ancillary effect from joining the ESB!

As long as I am asking questions, what do you want **your** society to be? Do you want it to be a technical organization or a social organization? This question has come up in recent discussions. I have my own thoughts on this but; I would greatly enjoy hearing your thoughts on this. Please feel free to let me know. You can contact me at [bbassano@roadrunner.com](mailto:bbassano@roadrunner.com) or by calling Kim Burr, our administrative assistant at 873-4455. Depending on your feedback, this could determine the future direction of the Engineering Society of Buffalo. So where do you want to go?

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

02-06-12	6pm	ESB Ways & Means and Board Meeting	ESB Office
02-08-12	Noon	OF Luncheon	Royal Restaurant
02-20-12		ESB Office Closed	
03-05-12	6pm	Ways & Means and Board Meeting	TBD
03-07-12	Noon	OF Luncheon	Royal Restaurant
03-14-12 to 03-24-12		Kim Vacation—ESB Office Closed	



## Construction Exchange Serves WNY Construction Industry

For more than 30 years, the Construction Exchange of Buffalo & WNY, Inc. has been serving the commercial construction industry in Western New York. As a trade association with more than 680 member companies, the Construction Exchange provides services that help contractors and companies supporting the construction industry to be more competitive.

The Construction Exchange provides many benefits for its members, from networking events and educational seminars to advertising opportunities and grant funded safety training, but the most popular benefit by far is the Online Plan Room. The Online Plan Room allows members to find and track construction projects 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Members rely on the accurate and timely reporting to efficiently locate opportunities and with over 600 projects posted for Erie County over the last year alone, it is the most comprehensive reporting service for the Western New York area.

Recently, the Construction Exchange announced a new component to its Online Plan Room called “Pre-bid” reporting. This new service allows engineers, architects, general contractors, construction managers, manufacturers, or anyone interested in

planning for future opportunities, to view projects that are still in the planning phase. There are currently hundreds of projects listed in Pre-bid in various phases, from those that do not yet have an architect to those that are going out to bid in a few weeks.

The Online Plan Room also provides value for owners, developers and the project management team. Projects posted in the Online Plan Room are accessed by a large and diverse bidder pool, which can drive down construction costs and provide for quick and easy dissemination of important project information.

To learn more about membership with the Construction Exchange or to discuss posting your next project in the Online Plan Room, call Joe Benedict at 716-874-3435.



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# Students' 'Evolving' Use of Technology

By: Andy Guess  
September 17, 2007  
Insidehighered.com

Stop the presses: Today's college students are using more technology than ever.

That may not be the most surprising finding from a report released last week by the Educause Center for Applied Research, the analytical arm of the nonprofit group that promotes effective technology use in higher education. But it certainly provides a jumping-off point for an investigation into how students use information technology in college and how it can be harnessed to improve the learning experience.

In at least one central respect, proponents of technology in the classroom are on to something: Most students (60.9 percent) believe it improves their learning.

***"They're using social networking sites like crazy, but don't necessarily think those have a place in the classroom"***

The changes in technological habits aren't revolutionary per se, as the authors point out; rather, students are making "evolutionary" gains in access to the Internet for everyday uses, inside the classroom and out. Perhaps the most visible of these changes is the continuing increase in the proportion of students with laptops, which has grown to 73.7 percent of respondents (while an almost-total 98.4 percent own a computer of some kind). More surprisingly, over half of laptop owners don't bring them to class at all, with about a quarter carrying them to lectures at least once a week.

The amount of time spent on the Internet also shows no sign of abating, with an average of about 18 hours a week, for any purpose -- and, on the extreme end, some 6.6 percent of respondents (mostly male) saying they spend more than a full-time job's worth of 40 hours online a week. Most students use broadband, more are on wireless connections, and "smart phones" -- all-in-one communications and personal data assistants -- are also on the rise, with 12 percent owning one.

What they're doing when they're online is also changing somewhat, with the rise of Facebook and other social networking sites as the clearest trend this year (to 80.3 percent from 72.3 percent in 2006), along with streaming video and course management software, which 46.1 percent of respondents said they use several times a week or more (compared with 39.6 percent in 2006).

The authors of the study, which surveyed 27,864 students at 103 two- and four-year colleges and universities, note that most undergraduates today are "digital natives" who have grown up immersed in technology in some form. But the "millennials" aren't necessarily ready to cast off the yoke of human interaction and learn solely within virtual 3-D environments wired directly to the brain. The study finds "themes of skepticism and moderation alongside enthusiasm," such that 59 percent preferred a "moderate rather than extensive use of IT in courses."

Instead, students appear to segment different modes of communication for different purposes. E-mail, Web sites, message boards and Blackboard? Viable ways of connecting with professors and peers. Same for chat, instant messaging, Facebook and text messages? Not necessarily, the authors write, because students may "want to protect these tools' personal nature."

"They're using social networking sites like crazy, but they don't necessarily think those have a place in the classroom," said Gail Salaway, one of the primary authors and a fellow at ECAR.

In short, as students become more and more connected to each other through various online mediums, they're also becoming more untethered, with laptops and smart phones keeping them physically apart. As a result, the "emerging Web 2.0 paradigm" of "immersive environments" and dynamic information promise (or threaten?) to upend traditional pedagogies and even the way students learn, the authors conclude.

That could mean that some professors might have to play catch-up, according to the report, "The ECAR Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology, 2007" - a sentiment also indicated by some of the students in answers to the survey's open-ended questions.

## How IT Affects Learning

The epigraph to the report's sixth chapter, from a student's written comments, goes a long way toward summarizing what the authors say is the place of technology in the college setting today: "IT is not a good substitute for good teaching. Good teachers are good with or without IT and students learn a great deal from them. Poor teachers are poor with or without IT and students learn little from them."

Seventy percent of the students polled said information technology helps them do research, a finding that is not surprising in light of the continuing popularity of Google and Wikipedia among undergraduates (sometimes to the consternation of their professors). But that finding also



encompasses online library research and article databases.

When it comes to engagement, however, responses are more mixed. About two-fifths of students said they were more engaged with courses that had IT components, while a fifth disagreed and the rest didn't say either way. So technology's utility in the classroom comes down to how it is used. The question, then, is: How can educators adapt their teaching methods to emerging technologies? And should they?

Skeptics might point out that even students themselves are ambivalent when it comes to using the Internet and other digital tools for class, as the survey highlights. But the study's introduction, written by Chris Dede of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, suggests what professors can expect from digital natives' evolving modes of learning, what he calls "neomillennial learning styles."

As new methods of interacting with information become more ubiquitous, he suggests, citing Second Life-type virtual immersion environments as an example, students will grow up with different expectations and preferences for acquiring knowledge and skills. The implication is less of an emphasis on the "sage on the stage" and a linear acquisition process focusing on a "single best source," focusing instead on "active learning" that comes from synthesizing information from multiple types of media.

Noting that traditional ways of thinking and learning are undergoing a "sea change," Dede encourages a fusion of new and old. But what form that will take, exactly, is not addressed directly in the report.

The problem with predicting the future of learning, suggests Toru Iiyoshi, a senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, is that some educators "are against the idea of technology itself transforming their teaching and student learning." Rather than fit it in with their current methods, he said, they should take the opposite approach.

Encouraging them to "start thinking from different perspectives, how they can teach better or improve student learning is, I think, very important," he said.

### A College That Embraces IT

What does a learning environment that embraces new technologies look like? It's not clear, but it might resemble a classroom at the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering in Needham, Mass. The institution, which opened in 2002, found itself having to start from scratch in every way possible, including in its design of an information architecture. The person in charge of that project was Joanne Kossuth, the chief information officer and vice president for development at the college.

Kossuth, who helped implement the Educause study at Olin, said the college is somewhat unusual in that its engineering focus and small classes encourage innovation and collaboration among its students. Where some institutions have

had to scramble to adapt to evolving technological needs, Olin did it all at once -- from the ground up. The result is a much more integrated, forward-looking approach to IT. The college has a 24/7 laptop loan program, which allows students to be in constant communication with each other and helps encourage them to work together on projects, so that "you'll see students that go out and use things like Google Docs," editing online in real time, she said.

Freshmen come in to the college already well acquainted with social networking and used to course management software, mainly because of its increasing use in high school, Kossuth said. They use a campus-hosted wiki to find rides. They work with administrators to improve software offerings. In other words, the students are at the cutting edge, while some faculty are working to catch up.

"I'm a firm believer that the students that are up and coming are the ones that are driving the adoption, because they're coming with a set of expectations," Kossuth explained.

Still, in this tech-savvy environment, some face-to-face interaction is still preferred. At the help desk, she said, proposals for chat and text messaging services met with skepticism because students preferred to e-mail or come in themselves. In general, the ECAR report found a number of negative comments about help desks' effectiveness, suggesting their importance to a smooth IT operation.

### Other Findings

The report also highlighted a number of gaps and trends through longitudinal comparisons of the past three years' worth of survey data:

- ◇ Leisure devices, such as handheld video and music players (read: iPods), have transcended the gender gap. Where there used to be a difference between males' and females' ownership of the players just two years ago, the gap has disappeared, with 83.1 percent of 18- to 19-year-olds owning one.
- ◇ Engineering and business students use more technology, especially for spreadsheets and graphics editing, and males are more likely to spend more extreme amounts of time online.
- ◇ The report also finds challenges in addressing skills gaps for using spreadsheets and CMS software, highlighting the need for colleges to provide instructional technology to bring students up to speed.

Next year, for the first time, the ECAR survey will additionally focus on a specific aspect of IT. The first topic: social networking.

**"I'm a firm believer  
that the students that  
are up and coming  
are the ones that are  
driving the adoption,  
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2. PINHEADS	68	58
3. OUTCASTS	65	61
4. FINGER HOLES	64	62
5. CAD/CAMS	63	63
6. SPLIT HAPPENS	62	64
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8. TRANSMITTERS	57	69
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10. DEAD LOADS	51	75

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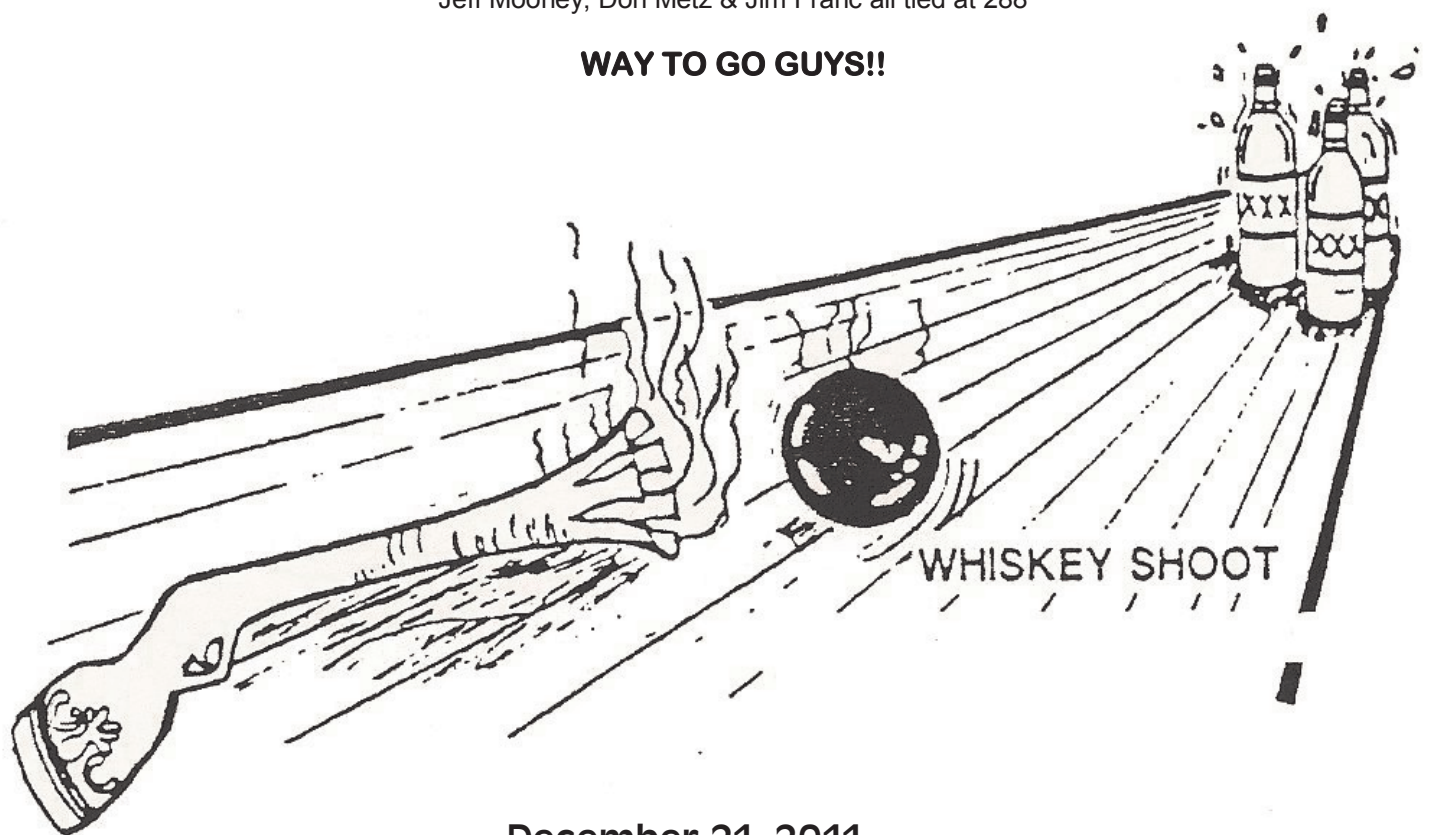
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ED GREMBOWICZ	236	ED GREMBOWICZ	618		
JEFF MOONEY	236	BRIAN OLKOWSKI	607		
PAUL MORROW	217	JEFF MOONEY	607		
BRIAN OLKOWSKI	215				



During Week 14, the ESB Bowling League had a 3 Way Tie for the Cross Alley category. This was a league first!!

Jeff Mooney, Don Metz & Jim Franc all tied at 288

### WAY TO GO GUYS!!



December 21, 2011

1.	MERRILL ARTHUR	282	11.	PAUL MORROW	243
2.	ERIC MURPHY	263	12.	TODD BROADY	239
3.	KEVIN DEVINE	256	13.	JIM STONE	243
4.	WALT NEUHAUS	253	14.	ERIC LESTER	236
5.	STEVE DECK	253	15.	CHUCK COLE	234
6.	JIM FRANK	252	16.	BRIAN OLKOWSKI	234
7.	JOHN GIRDLESTONE	249	17.	MIKE MUMBOCK	231
8.	CHUCK GIRDLESTONE	247	18.	GREG HART	231
9.	PAT MUDD	245	19.	NORM DUDZICK	230
10.	DON METZ	244	20.	TODD HUTH	230

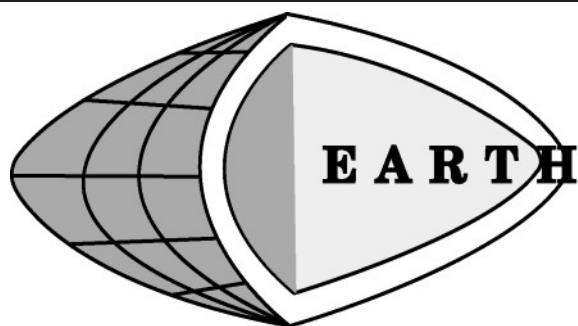


Annual Golf Tournament

Monday June 11, 2012  
Noon Shotgun start

Tan Tara Golf Club

We are in need of Golfers and  
Sponsors!!  
Please remember us in your Annual  
Budget!!



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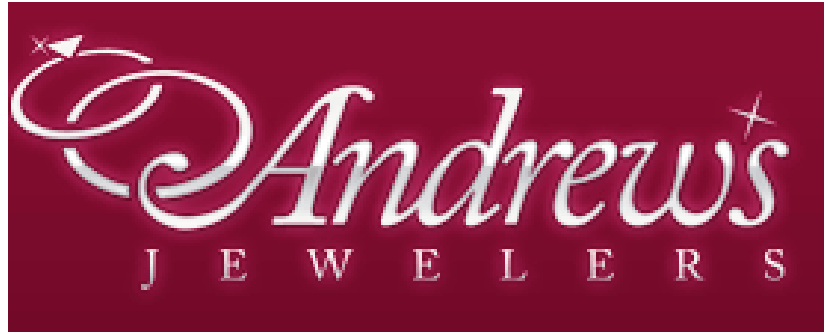
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**Hole in One  
Prizes!**



**This year's Golf Tournament will include a chance to win  
Hole in One prizes!!**

Andy Moquin from Andrew's Jewelers is sponsoring the Hole in One Prize.

If you get a Hole in One on Hole #1 you will win a prize from Andrew's Jewelers yet TBD (up to \$5000 value)

You will also have the chance to win:

A \$500 Visa Gift Card.

We are also pairing up our tournament with Kenmore Rotary this year.  
They will also be sponsoring a Hole in One prize!!

If you buy into the Hole in One game, you get a chance at both the ESB & Rotary prizes!!



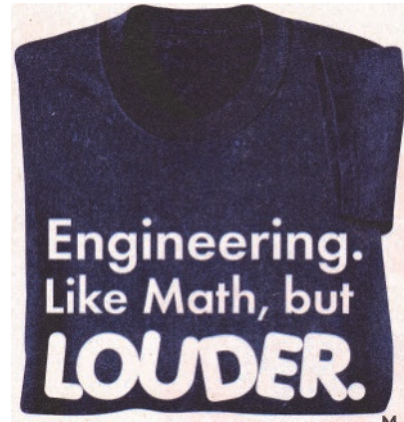
**\$5 per hole  
\$10 for all 3**

# JOKE



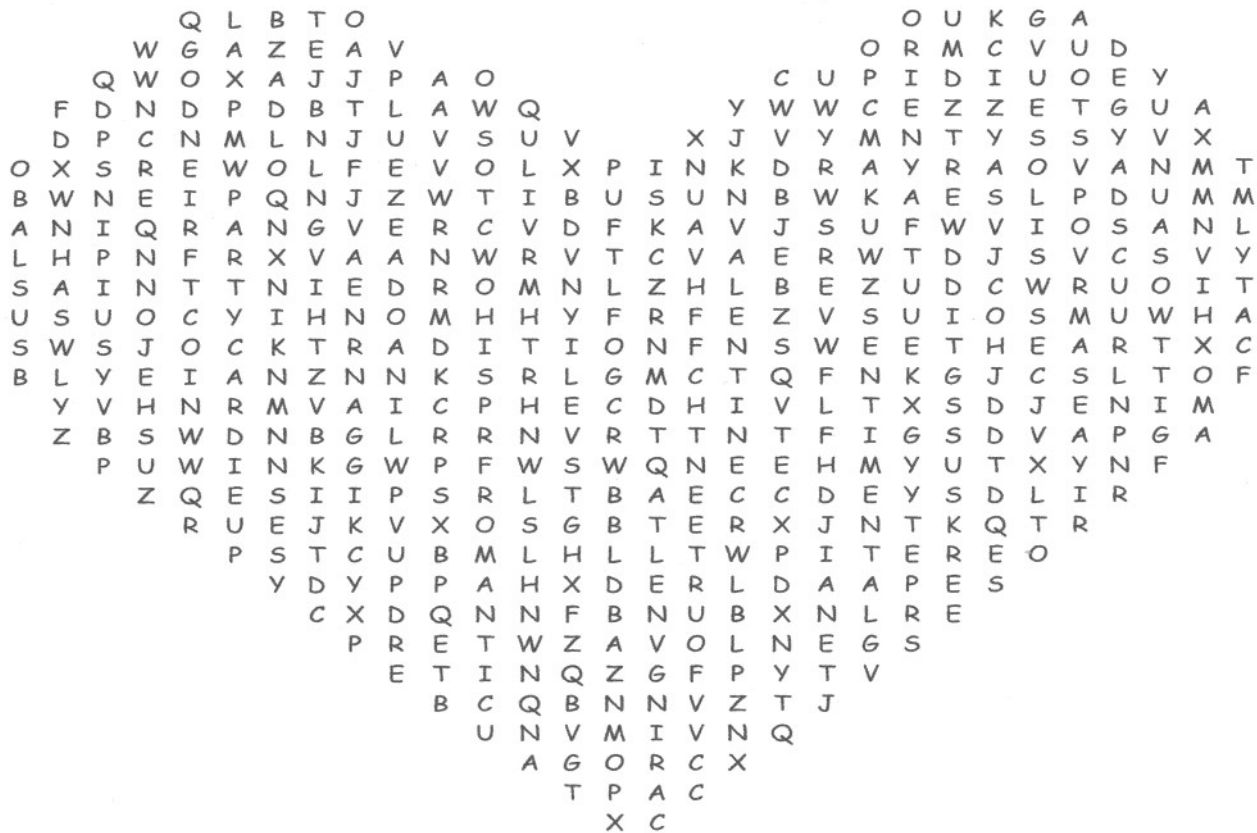
"I was close to a breakthrough when the grant money ran out."

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## AMUSEMENT

### Valentines Day



- ADMIRER
- CARING
- DAY
- FLOWERS
- GIFT
- HEART
- MINE
- RED
- ROSES
- SWEET
- VALENTINE

- CANDY
- CHOCOLATE
- FEAST
- FOURTEENTH
- GREETING
- KINDNESS
- PARTY
- ROMAN
- SAINT
- SWEETHEART

- CARD
- CUPID
- FEBRUARY
- FRIEND
- HAPPY
- LOVE
- PINK
- ROMANTIC
- SENTIMENTAL
- TRADITION





## 2012 Raffle

1st Prize: Kindle Fire  
2nd Prize: \$100 Gas Card  
3rd Prize: \$50 Gas Card

# \$3.00

# 2 for \$5.00

Members will receive tickets to sell.  
Please help this fundraiser!!

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Gino,

I don't know if you remember me but I wanted to let you know that I just found out that I passed the NY P.E. exam this past October. I had been out of college for well over 20 years and signed up for the F.E. exam this past April after taking the review class you offered at UB. I passed on the first attempt and immediately signed up to take the P.E. this past October. I just received my NCEES notification that I passed that as well. I got this all done in less than one year and wanted to thank you for your help in achieving this. The review class really helped me get prepared for the F.E. and keep the momentum going to immediately take the P.E.

I wanted to tell you this so that when you get an engineer (like me) inquiring on whether or not it's doable after being out of school awhile, the answer is yes! Also, I wanted to thank you again for your efforts in helping me achieve these goals.

A happy and healthy new year to you and your family.

**Kevin King - RM Mechanical Engineer**

That was a letter than Gino received from one of the Review Course attendees. It's nice to get back such positive feedback. It also sends a message of encouragement to future participants.

Thank you to our Review Course coordinators and instructors for offering such a valuable tool.



## Student Member Info needed!

Tell us about your school activities. Ask a question you've always wanted to know about engineering. We want this page to be for you, our student members. Please, help us to provide relevant content for you! All submissions become the property of ESB

and may be edited due to space constraints etc. Send your article to Robin Closs at [robin@rjrpc.com](mailto:robin@rjrpc.com). Hey, we'd accept technical articles for the front cover too. Your writing could be on the front cover of a publication. How cool is that?!?

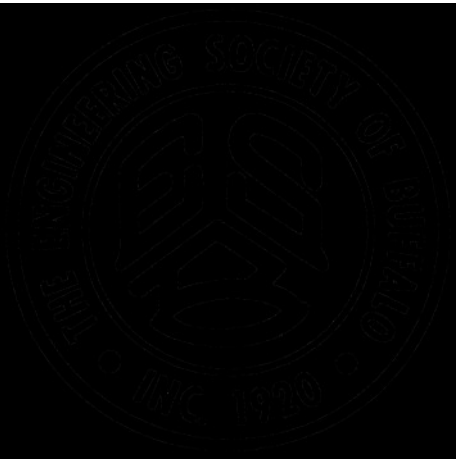
<b>Advertising/Marketing:</b>	No Report
<b>Audit:</b>	Assembled tax return for the ESB. Will submit before the 15 <sup>th</sup> to the IRS.
<b>Bowling:</b>	No report
<b>Business/Community Affairs/Publicity:</b>	There were 2 articles on the ESB recently. One was in the Buffalo News and the other was in Buffalo Rising. Kim Burr is looking for volunteers for Future Cities Competition. Two other volunteer programs that are a great way for people to get involved are B.E.A.M (Buffalo Area Engineering awareness for Minorities) and Project Lead the Way. Kim Burr has ordered another 1000 books for the raffle. If you need more, contact Kim.
<b>Bylaws:</b>	Looking for volunteers to review the Bylaws. Robin Closs and Steve SanFilippo both have agreed to help. Others are welcome.
<b>Education:</b>	No report.
<b>Endowment:</b>	Is up. But the ESB borrowed 11k from the endowment last yr.
<b>Entertainment and Program:</b>	Looking to do a tour for Buffalo Color. They have a train museum and would look to possibly have it in February.
<b>Golf:</b>	The ESB has received 2 sponsor checks for the golf tournament. There is still plenty of room to add a sponsor, so get the word out!
<b>New Membership:</b>	There is interest from the Corps of Engineers and Piezotronics for new members.
<b>Newsletter:</b>	The web address of the ESB and ESB contact info should be put on the news letter either so people can easily find it.
<b>Nominating:</b>	John Beishline has a list of 8 solid candidates.
<b>Office:</b>	Robin Closs cleaned out the office and it looks great. There are also a ton of extra drink cups at the office so there is no need to buy any more until they are used up.
<b>Retention Membership:</b>	John Beishline cleaned up all loose ends.
<b>Roster:</b>	Kim Burr is done with the roster and it was mailed out.
<b>Scholarship:</b>	Packets have been mailed. We are looking to replace our friend Dick Weimer.
<b>Scholarship Run:</b>	John Beishline has sanctioned the race for 2M.
<b>Sunshine:</b>	Dick Weimer passed away due to an aneurism. Our thoughts and prayers are with him.
<b>Website:</b>	Need to update the website to reflect the current times. Any ideas and volunteers are welcome.
<b>Adjournment:</b>	The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 P.M.
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	ESB Office, 3200 Elmwood Avenue Room 206, Kenmore 14217



**A.Y.I.**

Kim will be on vacation March 17-24th so the office will be closed.





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