#### **SEASONAL ARTICLE**

### History by Bill Petro



April Fools' Day, or All Fools' Day, is the name given to the custom of playing practical jokes on friends on April 1st or sending them on fools errands. The origin of this custom has been much disputed; it is in some way a relic of those once universal festivities held at the vernal equinox, which began on the old New Year's Day celebrations of March 25th and ended on April 1st.

Another view is that it is a farcical commemoration of Jesus' trials during Passion Week in Jerusalem when he was sent from Annas' House to Caiaphas' Palace to Pontius Pilate's Praetorium to Herod's Hasmonean Palace and back to Pilate again... which culminated in his crucifixion on Good Friday, which may have been April 1st.

The observance in the UK of April 1st goes back to ancient times though it did not appear as a common custom until the early 1700s. In Scotland, the custom was known as "hunting the gowk," ie the cuckoo and April fools were "April gowks." The French would designate a person as poisson d'avril or April fish in association with a colorful (but unverifiable) account of calendar reform. The story goes that in 1564 Charles IX of

France changed the beginning of the year from the week that fell between March 25th and April 1st - to January 1st. Reputedly, those who refused to make the change would have pranksters surreptitiously affix a paper fish to the laggards' backs.

In the US, individuals and employees would concoct elaborate hoaxes and practical jokes on April Fools' Day. At the old Sun Microsystems in Silicon Valley for example, the size and complexity of these hoaxes were legendary in the 1980s and '90s in particular with local television and radio media showing up to capture the event.

Not surprisingly, due to high-tech pranks, some backup

companies have sponsored a recent geek holiday called World Backup Day the day before, on March 31, hoping to help people from becoming April Fools.

Reprinted with Permission from Bill Petro, Your Friendly Neighborhood Historian. Find more of his articles at www.billpretro.com

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A CFO said to his boss once "What if we train our employees and they leave?" and the CEO said "What if we don't and they stay!"



Professional development is one thing that professional engineers (PE's) are required to do to keep up with their profession. Professional Engineers need approximately twelve credits each year to keep their license in New York. One credit or

Jumpin' Jeff Wach

Professional
Development
Hour (PDH) is
awarded for
every 50 minutes
of approved
lecture time. One
way to obtain



credits is to go to conferences, seminars, and tours that have technical relevance to engineering and professional development. Engineers need to stay current with what's happening in the industry and not just design things on paper.

One such way to stay current with what's happening is to go to the NASCC conference in Toronto March 26 to 29. Visit www.aisc.org for more information. The Conference also includes the World Steel Bridge Symposium. I think that just about anyone who designs things with steel should be there! The American Institute for Steel Construction (AISC) is hosting the conference and also puts out a book on typical steel used in construction.

As my old professor Stuart Chen PhD stated, the AISC book is the "Steel

Bible". It is a book that has a wealth of information about structural steel and structural steel design. Almost every civil engineer has used one.

The Catholic Health tour that ESB and Uniland hosted last month was a way to gain 1.0 PDH. The tour was well attended with about 16 people. The attendees had great questions and learned what different trades put in the building and learned about all aspects of the building's design.

A great way to gain professional insight is from other respected organizations such as The Technical Society's Council (TSC) www.eng.buffalo.edu\tsc via a.ker@verizon.net or The Association of Bridge Construction and Design (ABCD) at www.abcdwny.com.

TSC is an organization that is an umbrella for about 30 societies here in Buffalo. TSC puts out an email to its members notifying them of all the PDH seminars going on in WNY. ABCD hosts a lot of seminars for PDH credit on bridge topics primarily. Both organizations are a great place to keep up with Professional Development and "What's New" in engineering.

A CFO said to his boss once "What if we train our employees and they leave?" and the CEO said "What if we don't and they stay!"

Matthew J. Plizga, P.E. ESB President mplizga811@aol.com

CALENDAR	OF EVENTS		A <sub>II</sub> O et la
06-01-14		ESB Scholarship Applications Due	Opto And
08-05-14		ESB/BEAM Golf Tournament	they tighte to the state of the
04-08-14		ISA Tech Expo	Marriott in Amherst
04-08-14		UB Summer Jobs Fair	
04-07-14	6:00pm	Ways and Means Meeting	900 Niagara Falls Blvd, N Tonawanda (An-Cor)
04-07-14	7:00pm	Directors Meeting	900 Niagara Falls Blvd, N Tonawanda (An-Cor)
05-05-14	6:00pm	Ways and Means Meeting	100 Lee St, Buffalo (Heritage Discovery Center)
05-05-14	7:00pm	Directors Meeting	100 Lee St, Buffalo (Heritage Discovery Center)
04-12-14	10am	Adopt A Highway Cleanup	Corner of Colvin and Brighton, Tonawanda

#### **ESB COMING EVENTS**

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#### How Long Will That Junk Last?

There isn't always a definite answer to the question of how long it takes for something to biodegrade. It depends on exposure to sunlight and water, and other factors. Some general guidelines are:

- Paper: 2-8 weeks
- Orange Peel: 6 months
- Milk Carton: 5 years
- Cigarette Butt: 1-12 years
- Plastic Bag: 10-20 years or more
- Disposable Diaper: 75-500 years
- Plastic Bottle: 450 years
- Soda Can: 200-500 years
- Styrofoam is immortal, it never decomposes.



# Dyngus Day in Buffalo By Tara Pfarner

Did you know that Buffalo is home to the world's largest organized Dyngus Day celebration? Celebrated in the traditionally Polish neighborhoods of the city since 1870, the festivities now attract more than 50,000 revelers each year.

There are even songs about it. In 2006, two-time Grammy Award nominated polka band Jerry Darlak & the Touch recorded the "Everybody's Polish on Dyngus Day" polka. The song's composer, Ray Barsukiewicz, says that the polka is intended to capture the uniqueness of the Buffalo Dyngus Day celebration, and the lyrics mention pussy willows, the sprinkling of water, polka dancing, and parties that last well into the next day. The "Dingus Day in Buffalo

Polka" was released the same year by Lenny Gomulka and the Chicago Push. Nominated for eleven Grammy awards, Gomulka is touted as one of the premiere polka stars of the US.

Buffalo's celebrations even have their own website dyngusdaybuffalo.com. This site explains how the Polish-American tradition celebrates the end of the observance of Lent, the joy of Easter, and how the boys sprinkle the girls with water and tap them with pussywillow branches.

Isn't it great living in Buffalo? Grab your pussy willows and squirt guns and join in the celebration this year on April 21!



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## **Newsletter Information**

We want your news! Submit your articles and photos by the 15th of each month for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Newsletter advertisers can have their ad on the web as well for just \$20 additional. Your ad will stay online until August - that's less than \$4 a month! How can you beat that?

All members can post job openings on the ESB website for **FREE** (space permitting). Corporate members are allowed an employment ad twice per year in this newsletter...for free.

(Maximum of a quarter page size please.)

(Maximum of a quarter page size please.)

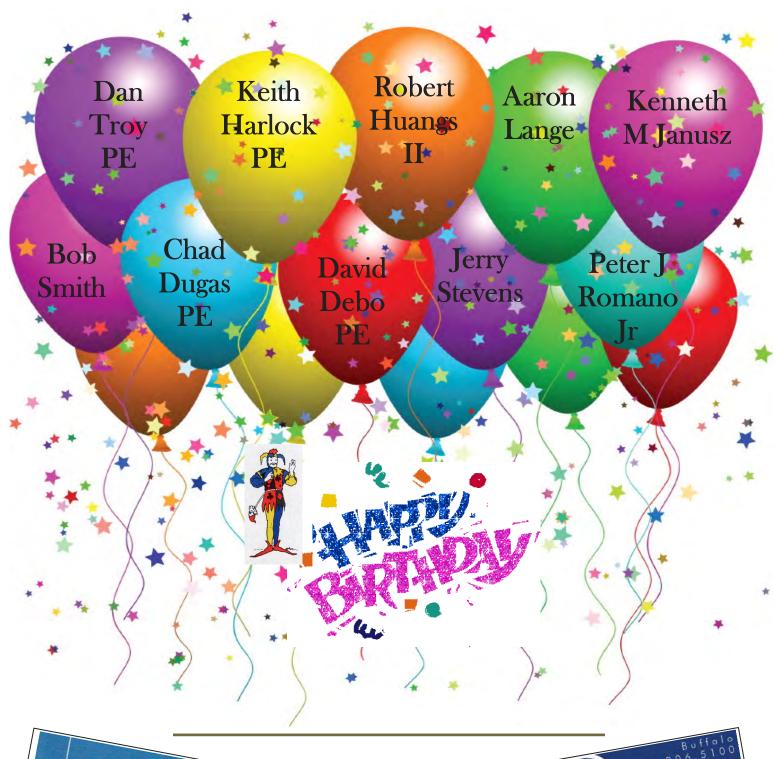
Corporate members, submit a recent corporate bio (and photo, if available) to ESB1894@gmail.com for future inclusion in the newsletter.

All members can post job openings on the Do you know someone who might like to ESB website for **FREE** (space read our newsletter?

Send their home or business address to ESB1894@gmail.com!











# Local/Online PDH Opportunities

may be of interest to our members, please forward them to our office for inclusion in the newsletter and on our website at www.tesb.org. pricing are available for certain society members, small companies, etc. And if you have information regarding future PDH opportunities that For additional information regarding these opportunities, contact our office at ESB1894@gmail.com or 716-873-4455. Discounts for some

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Free	Precast Concrete: Reduces Risk and Professional Liability	Webinar	1.0?	10/50 % 62/40
\$81\$	Building Codes (AISC Night School Series)	Webinar	<i>2.</i> I	1/87/70
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001\$	Cold-Formed Metal Framing	ənilnO	0.1	1/07/70
Free	Retrofit Roof Design for Wind and Snow (via roofhugger.com)	Webinar	∀/N	<i>t1/L1/t</i> 0
Free	Metal Retrofit Versus Coatings & Overlays (via roofhugger.com)	Webinar	∀/N	<i>\pu</i> 1/\pu1/\pu0
\$545	Quality Control/Quality Assurance and Professional Ethics	Syracuse	0.7	t1/I1/t0
667\$	Lessons from Failures of Building Envelope	Webinar	<i>2.</i> I	t1/01/t0
Free	Retrofit Metal Roof Benefits (via roofhugger.com)	Webinar	∀/N	t1/01/t0
08\$	Selective Coordination Affects for Emergency & Power Distribution Systems	Amherst	<i>2.</i> I	t1/80/t0
08\$	Product Lifecycle Management (ISA Tech Expo 2014)	Amherst	Z.I	t1/80/t0
\$81\$	Steel Systems (AISC Night School Series)	Webinar	Z.I	<i>t1/L0/t0</i>
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667\$	Antiquated Structural Systems	ənilnO	Z.I	1/15/5
09\$	OSHA 10-Hour Course	ənilnO	$\forall N$	IIA
Free	The Evolution of Glass and High Performance Coatings	onilnO	0.1	IIA
Free	LEED and High Performance Glass	ənilnO	0.1	IIA
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### Habarí Blurbs Sasa!

#### Congratulations, you now know Swahili! (It means "News Blurbs Now".)

Watts Architecture & Engineering, a full service, multidisciplined architecture, engineering and environmental services consulting firm with office locations in Buffalo and Syracuse, is pleased to announce that Sean J. Caputí and William P. O'Heron

have joined the firm.

Mr. Caputí has joined as a Civil Engineer. He is currently pursuing hís lícensure as a Professional Engineer (PE) within New York State and is NY/FE-Certified, having passed the Fundamentals in Engineering (FE) Exam, the first of two examinations required for PE certification. Mr. Caputi earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clarkson



university (Potsdam, NY) and his Masters of Business Administration from SUNY at Buffalo. He is professionally certified in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER). Mr. Caputí was formerly employed as an Inspector at Nussbaumer  $\varepsilon$  Clarke, Inc and is a resident of East Aurora.



Mr. O'Heron is a Structural Designer with over 15 years of experience in project management, estimating, and drafting. He holds an Associate of Science in Drafting from Alfred State, SUNY College of Technology with a specialization in Process Pipina and Model Building. Formerly employed as a Project Manager/Checker/Estimator/ Draftsman with White's Steel in California, his duties included

overseeing scheduling, fabrication, delivery, and installation of structural steel projects. Watts is pleased to welcome Mr. O'Heron to the firm and back to Buffalo; he is a resident of Amherst.

Picone Construction continues to advance on the new construction of a \$10.2 million Wingate by Wyndham Hotel located at 333 Rainbow Boulevard, Níagara Falls, New York. The hotel will



consist of approximately 100,000 sq ft, four-story, 110-room hotel with retail and restaurant space. The project is expected to be completed late spring of next year. The project Architect is Sílvestrí Archítects, PC.

Picone Construction Corp. is also proud to welcome John Doherty, Estimating Assistant. John recently graduated from the university at Buffalo in May 2013 with a BS in Civil Engineering and will assist the estimating team in its day-today operations of securing future work for the company.



We need your news blurbs NOW! We want to know about your recent projects, awards, híres, promotions, patents, new products, partnerships, open houses, tours, and anything else you'd like to share. Send your noteworthy news to ESB1894@gmail.com.

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### An Obscure War

The Upper Peninsula War (1843-1844; also known as the Canadian - In 1840, when large mineral deposits (copper and iron) were Michigan War) was the conflict between the State of Michigan and Canada over a disputed territorial line in the Upper Peninsula, which led to a secession attempt by the governor of Michigan,

Epaphroditus Ransom. The boundary dispute arose out of ambiguous and conflicting mappings of the region, which set the St. Mary's

River through what is known now as the Upper Peninsula. Governor Ransom feared that the Canadian government would attempt to reclaim sovereignty over the Upper Peninsula. He also feared threats from U.S. President John Tyler to remove him from office. These two political insecurities lead to a brutal crackdown on Canadian residents of Michigan and Ransom declaration of independence titled 'The Cause for Independence'.

The Upper Peninsula is bordered by Northern Wisconsin, Lake Superior, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan

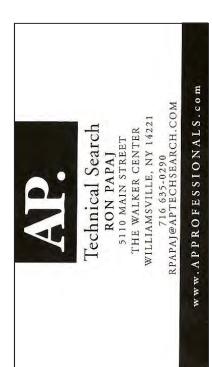
The disputed boundary line was set shortly after the War of 1812. During the war of 1812 British Troops captured what was then the Michigan Territory and sovereignty of the territory was briefly returned to Upper Canada. Control of the territory was only restored to the United States after the Treaty of Ghent, which implemented the policy of "Status Quo Ante Bellum" or "Just as Things Were Before the War". However, true sovereignty of the Upper Peninsula and the islands in the St. Clair River remained contested. After Michigan was awarded the Upper Peninsula as a consolation for its losses in the Toledo War, the issue of sovereignty was reignited.

discovered in the area, French-Canadians began to migrate to the region in mass. Some French-Canadian separatists began to secretly fund the new immigrants to the region – organizing them into regional militias. Michigan Governor Epaphroditius Ransom feared, after being informed of the secret militia funding that the Canadian

> government was attempting to annex the region. On February 26, 1843, Governor Ransom mobilized a militia force to move into the region. He ordered the militia commanders to crack down on all Canadian citizens and secure the Upper Peninsula borders against a full-fledged Canadian incursion. This troop mobilization lead to a brutal crackdown in the Upper Peninsula – specifically in the towns of St. Ignace (on the south-western edge) and Rudyard (on the eastern border). The conflict was only ended with the capture of Governor Ransom by federal troops on April 1, 1843.

Do you remember learning this in history class? You shouldn't, because it never happened. Note the end date of the conflict: April 1, 1843. The above information is a Wikipedia entry created as a detailed hoax, complete with extensive footnotes and references. It was removed within two weeks of its publication, but is preserved on Wikipedia as a hoax, with a prominent disclaimer. The article can be viewed in its entirety here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Wikipedia:List\_of\_hoaxes\_on\_Wikipedia/Upper\_Peninsula\_War. Remember, not everything that's on the internet is true especially around the beginning of April!







# Innovative Underpants

#### By Tara Pfarner

No, this one isn't an April Fools Day prank!

Perfect for that special guy (or gal) in your life, the UK-based company Shreddies has introduced men's and women's underwear that contain a Zorflex panel at the rear. Zorflex is a material touted to able to filter offensive odors like those which may emit from your, er, rear.

The company claims that the underwear can neutralize odors up to 200 times as strong as the average fart. Washing your skivvies reactivates the carbon material in the rear panel.

Shreddies were created by an industrial designer, Paul O'Leary, who set out to tackle the world's flatulence problem. O'Leary worked alongside a team of lingerie designers to create a product that the company website says will not only make you smell better, but give you confidence and reduce anxiety during the average fourteen times a person breaks wind every day. Zorflex was selected as the filter material because its successful use in chemical warfare suits is renowned. That's saying something if your underwear can survive chemical warfare! The flatulence-filtering activated carbon material is also used for sensor protection, air filtration systems (obviously), wound dressings, respiratory masks, ostomy bag filters, the conservation of artifacts, personal protective equipment, and water filtration systems. It can be both woven and knitted into cloth to accommodate a wide range of uses.

The offending vapors pass through a layer of modal jersey fabric before (hopefully) being trapped in the Zorflex panel. Filtered, fresher air then passes through two more layers of jersey before reentering the atmosphere.

The underwear was put through a battery of tests, and findings from research by De Montfort University (whose lingerie designers helped design the drawers) were presented at the 86th Textile Institute World Conference. The fabric "was found to remove sulphide and ethyl mercaptan so effectively that it can filter odors 200 times the strength of the average flatus emission. The fabric remains effective for the life of the garment (2-3 years) providing the care instructions are followed correctly."



Shreddies' company motto is "Fart With Confidence". Take that, world!







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# Why Blueprints Are Blue By Daven Hiskey

Making copies of architectural drawings hasn't always been the easiest thing in the world to do. For the majority of human history, the most economical solution was simply to have someone make a tracing of the original plans.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the process abruptly became much quicker and easier thanks to famed polymath Sir John Herschel. In 1842, Herschel invented a method to easily copy drawings using potassium ferrocyanide and ammonium iron citrate.

The exact method, called cyanotype, is performed as

follows, First, you take a drawing of the plans done on relatively translucent tracing paper or cloth and place it on top of and attach it to paper (or sometimes linen, Mylar, etc.) that has been previously soaked in a mixture of the aforementioned two chemicals, then dried, Next, you expose the papers to a bright ultra-violet light source, such as the Sun. for several minutes.

The result is that the paper soaked in the chemicals ends up turning blue as the chemicals react to the light and form a compound called blue ferric ferrocyanide, also known as "Prussian Blue."

This wouldn't be very helpful for making a copy of a document except for the fact that where the light cannot penetrate the translucent paper, namely where the

drawing marks are, the coated paper remains the original color of the paper, usually white, effectively making a nice copy.

You might see a potential problem here in that you then can't expose the un-blued bits to any bright light source at first, but this problem is easily solved by simply washing the chemicals off, then allowing the paper to dry. At this point, the copy is complete.

Within a few decades of the discovery of this method of copying (as well as other blue-printing methods such as

one developed by Alphonse Louis
Poitevin in 1861 using
ferro-gallate), the price
dropped to about one-tenth the
cost of having someone simply
trace the original plans, helping
the popularity of blueprints
explode.

In the mid-twentieth century, copying methods such as as diazo prints, and then later xerographic prints, finally supplanted blueprints. Much more recently, simply sticking with digital versions of plans has become popular, with these having the

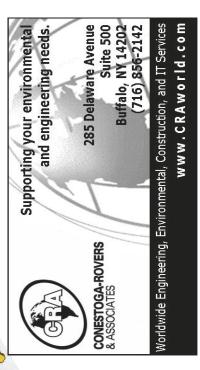
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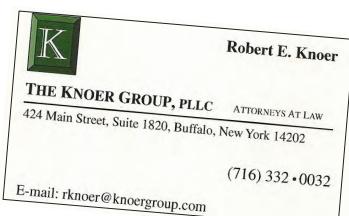
advantage of being easy to modify and distribute as needed during the construction process.

Despite the technological changes and the fact that these plans usually aren't on blue paper anymore, in popular vernacular the term "blueprints" has stuck around anyways.

This article appeared at www.Today|FoundOut.com and is reprinted with the author's permission.









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# **Engineering Landmarks**

By Tara Pfarner

Did you know that there are ASME landmarks all around the country, plus a handful around the world?

Neither did I, until a recent trip to Pittsburgh. Some local friends recommended the Duquesne Incline as part of the requisite tourist path for us. Upon arrival at the top of the incline, I was surprised to find a large plaque, erected by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1977, proclaiming it to be a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark.



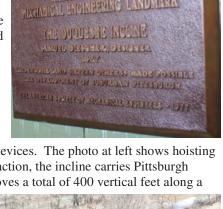
The second passenger incline in the United States (the nearby Monongahela Incline was the first) has operated with few interruptions since 1877. At one time, four operated simultaneously in the same area. The original cars are still in service, though the system has been

converted to electric from steam power and updated with modern safety devices. The photo at left shows hoisting machinery with individual maple bull gear teeth. More than a tourist attraction, the incline carries Pittsburgh residents up and down Mt Washington relatively quickly. The Incline moves a total of 400 vertical feet along a

794-foot track at a speed of 6 mph up a  $30.5^{\circ}$  grade.

Since the inception of the History and Heritage Landmarks Program in 1971, ASME has named over 250 landmarks which designate artifacts or systems representing a significant engineering technology. Landmarks in our

corner of the world include the Blood Heat Exchanger in Amherst (the first commercial human blood heat exchanger for controlling hyperthermic temperatures during openheart surgery), the Holly Fire Protection and Water System and Holly District Heating System (the first US integrated system to supply water for public safety and the first US district heating steam-heating system) at the Erie Canal Museum in Lockport, and the Q-R-S Marking Piano in Buffalo, one of the first machines to produce rolls for player pianos by recording actual performances. Who knew so much innovation happened here?





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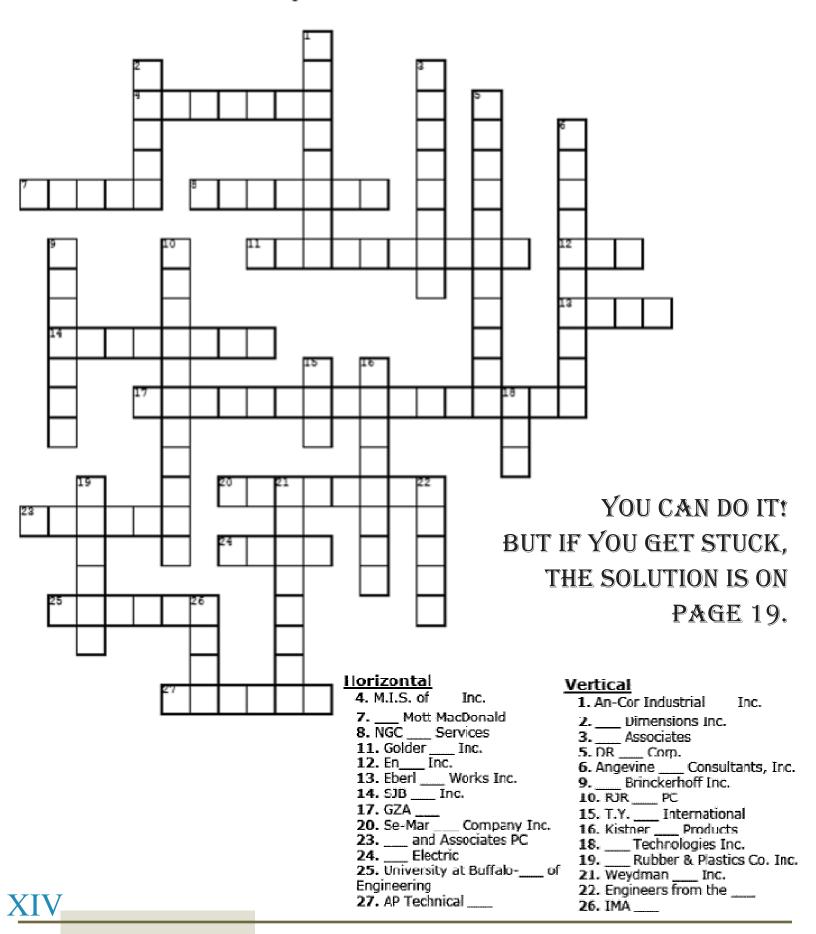
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# Preschoolers Outsmart College Students at Figuring Out Gizmos By Yasmin Anwar

Preschoolers can be smarter than college students at figuring out how unusual toys and gadgets work because they're more flexible and less biased than adults in their ideas about cause and effect, according to new research from the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Edinburgh.

A new study shows children can sometimes outsmart grownups when it comes to figuring out how gadgets work because they're less biased in their ideas about cause and effect.

The findings suggest that technology and innovation can benefit from the exploratory learning and probabilistic reasoning skills that come naturally to young children, many of whom are learning to use smartphones even before they can tie their shoelaces. The findings also build upon the researchers' efforts to use children's cognitive smarts to teach machines to learn in more human ways.



"As far as we know, this is the first study examining whether children can learn abstract cause and effect relationships, and comparing them to adults," said UC Berkeley developmental psychologist Alison Gopnik, senior author of the paper published online in the journal, Cognition.

Using a game they call "Blickets," the researchers looked at how 106

preschoolers (aged 4 and 5) and 170 college undergrads figured out a gizmo that works in an unusual way. They did this by placing clay shapes (cubes, pyramids, cylinders, etc) on a red-topped box to see which of the widgets - individually or in combination - could light

up the box and play music. The shapes that activated the machine were called "blickets."

What separated the young players from the adult players was their response to changing evidence in the blicket demonstrations. For example, unusual combinations could make the machine go, and children caught on to that rule, while the adults tended to focus on which individual blocks activated the machine even in the face of changing evidence.

"The kids got it. They figured out that the machine might work in this unusual way and so that you should put both blocks on together. But the best and brightest students acted as if the machine would always follow the common and obvious rule, even when we showed them that it might work differently," wrote Gopnik in her forthcoming column in The Wall Street Journal.

Overall, the youngsters were more likely to entertain unlikely possibilities to figure out "blicketness." This confirmed the researchers' hypothesis that preschoolers and kindergartners instinctively follow Bayesian logic, a statistical model that draws inferences by calculating the probability of possible outcomes.

"One big question, looking forward, is what makes children more flexible learners - are they just free from the preconceptions that adults have, or are they fundamentally more flexible or exploratory in how they see the world?" said Christopher Lucas, lead author of the paper and a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh. "Regardless, children have a lot to teach us about learning."

Other co-authors of the study are Thomas Griffiths and Sophie Bridgers of the UC Berkeley Department of Psychology.

This article appeared on the University of California Berkeley website (http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2014/03/06/figuring-out-how-gizmos/).





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# NSF REVEALS REGIONAL CONCENTRATIONS OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

BY SARAH KAHN

U.S. SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EMPLOYMENT IS HIGHLY CONCENTRATED IN A FEW STATES, ACCORDING TO A RECENTLY RELEASED NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION REPORT. MORE THAN A QUARTER OF ALL SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ARE CONCENTRATED IN CALIFORNIA, TEXAS, AND NEW YORK, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT. FLORIDA, VIRGINIA, ILLINOIS, MASSACHUSETTS, AND OHIO ALSO EMPLOY A LARGE PORTION OF ALL SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS.

OUT OF THE TOTAL 5.7 MILLION SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS, 3.1 MILLION REPORTED BEING IN A COMPUTER OR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES OCCUPATION, AND 1.7 MILLION REPORTED BEING ENGINEERS. THE REPORT ALSO CALCULATED THE PROPORTION OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING JOBS IN EACH STATE AND SHOWED THAT IT DS HIGHEST IN WASHINGTON, DC, WITH MARYLAND AND MASSACHUSETTS COMING IN BEHIND.

ADDITIONALLY, THE REPORT SHOWS THE AREAS AND CITIES WITHIN STATES WITH THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATIONS OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS. THE NSF USED U.S. CENSUS BUREAU DATA FOR THE REPORT.

THIS INFORMATION ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE ACCELERATOR, A NEWSLETTER THAT PROVIDES RESOURCES AND RELEVANT NEWS FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS (WWW.ENGINEERINGSTUDENTS.ORG).

### NEWLY EXPANDED WEBSITE HAS ENGINEERS CONNECTING AND COLLABORATING

ASME (THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS) HAS ELEVATED ITS WEBSITE TO A NEW LEVEL, ADDING AN ARRAY OF SOCIAL NETWORKING FEATURES THAT ALLOW ENGINEERS TO ENGAGE, NETWORK, SHARE KNOWLEDGE, AND COLLABORATE WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS AROUND THE WORLD.

THE SOCIETY HAS BUILT NEW, ROBUST DIGITAL CAPABILITIES INTO ITS WEBSITE, ENABLING ENGINEERS - ASME MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS ALIKE - TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXCITING VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WITH POWERFUL NEW NETWORKING TOOLS. REGISTRATION IS VIA HTTP://COMMUNITY.ASME.ORG.

ASME'S NEW WEBSITE INVITES USERS TO CREATE PERSONAL PROFILES AND OFFERS A DASHBOARD FOR SENDING MESSAGES AND SHARING LINKS AND COMMENTS. CREATING A PARTICIPANT PROFILE ON THE SITE IS AS EASY AS FOLLOWING SIMPLE PROMPTS AND NAVIGATION TOOLS, AND INFORMATION CAN BE IMPORTED FROM A LINKEDIN ACCOUNT. THERE ARE OVER 250 GROUPS OPEN TO PARTICIPANTS - RANGING FROM DESIGN ENGINEERING TO THE SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF WOMEN ENGINEERS.

THE ASME WEBSITE OFFERS A NICHE PLATFORM FOR ENGINEERS AND THE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY TO SHARE IDEAS AND INFORMATION. IT PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE, CURRENT, AND IN-DEPTH EXPERIENCE FOR ENGINEERS LOOKING TO EXPAND THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND THEIR NETWORK. TO DATE, OVER 32,000 ENGINEERS HAVE REGISTERED ON THE NEW ONLINE PLATFORM, AND NEW GROUPS ARE BEING FORMED ON A WEEKLY BASIS.

"ASME IS PROUD TO OFFER THE GLOBAL ENGINEERING COMMUNITY THIS UNIQUE EXPERIENCE," SAID THOMAS G. LOUGHLIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ASME. "WEDRE INTRODUCING AN ARRAY OF SOCIAL NETWORKING FEATURES WITH AN IN-DEPTH FOCUS ON FACILITATING DIALOGUE ACROSS A BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS THAT ARE OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN ENGINEERING. THEY WILL TRANSFORM THE WAY ENGINEERS ENGAGE WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF COLLABORATION. INDEED, ENGINEERS ARE INVENTING THE FUTURE."

THE NEW WEBSITE WILL FACILITATE DIALOGUE ACROSS A RANGE OF TECHNICAL TOPICS AS WELL AS PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES OF INTEREST TO ENGINEERS. IT FEATURES:

- PARTICIPANT PROFILE ALLOWS USERS TO CREATE A PUBLIC PROFILE THAT INCLUDES INFORMATION ABOUT TECHNICAL INTERESTS, WORK EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, AND CREDENTIALS SUCH AS PUBLICATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS AND PATENTS.
- DASHBOARD TO MANAGE PERSONAL ACCOUNTS, SEND MESSAGES, AND SHARE LINKS AND COMMENTS, AND TO STAY UP TO DATE ON CONFERENCES, EVENTS, ARTICLES, AND PUBLICATIONS BASED ON THE ENGINEER'S INTEREST.
- ASME GROUPS ALLOWS USERS TO JOIN HUNDREDS OF OFFICIAL ASME GROUPS OR CREATE THEIR OWN GROUP BASED ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC OR INDUSTRY.
- PARTICIPANT AND GROUP DIRECTORY TO EXPAND PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS AND ALSO ESTABLISH NEW RELATIONSHIPS.
- COMMENTING ALLOWS USERS TO SHARE THOUGHTS AND INSIGHTS ON ARTICLES AND OTHER POSTS APPEARING ON THE ASME WEBSITE.

"THE NEW WEBSITE WILL BE A MAGNET FOR ENGINEERS, PROMPTING DISCUSSIONS THAT MATTER," SAID PETER HESS, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND ONLINE SERVICES FOR ASME. "INCORPORATING POWERFUL NEW DIGITAL FEATURES, THE NEW ASME WEBSITE MAKES ENGINEERING COLLABORATION EASIER AND MORE CONVENIENT THAN EVER BEFORE.

ASME HELPS THE GLOBAL ENGINEERING COMMUNITY DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO REAL WORLD CHALLENGES. FOUNDED IN 1880 AS THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, ASME IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT ENABLES COLLABORATION, KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS ALL ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES, WHILE PROMOTING THE VITAL ROLE OF THE ENGINEER IN SOCIETY. ASME CODES AND STANDARDS, PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES, CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AND A SAFER WORLD.

THIS PRESS RELEASE WAS PUBLISHED AT ASME.ORG.



# Nap Pod to Aid in Creative Research

#### By Autumn Evans

A luxury nap pod was installed this month at SUNY Buffalo State after a faculty member won a sweepstakes sponsored by Dove Men+Care. Mike Fox, a senior lecturer in the creative studies department, said he entered the sweepstakes on a whim, not expecting much. He got the news that he had won in February. "It was a serendipity," Fox said. "A happy, delightful accident."

The creative studies department celebrated the official unveiling of the nap pod March 3. "I think it's fantastic that we have the opportunity to have such a hitech device in our space," said Cyndi Burnett, an assistant professor in the

department.

The nap pod could be a boon to the department, according to Fox. He said that in a past job, he was able to double profits and create new job positions by utilizing breaks. Companies like Google and Nike also use nap pods for their employees.

"A nap is not only a nice thing, it's an essential thing," Fox said. "The whole person comes to work."

DOVE
MEN START EVERY BY
+ CARE
ON A FREST
DEODORANT #Irritation

Photo Credit: SCOTT GABLE/ PR NEWSWIRE/ DOVE

When in use, the nap pod uses a seat warmer, leg rest and plays what Fox described as new age-type music. Its default setting is a 20-minute nap. "It's

almost like getting a full night's sleep," Fox said.

As part of his entry for the contest, Fox submitted an essay about possible links between napping and creativity. He plans on using the pod for research on creativity. Fox said that the Harvard Sleep Center has done studies that show a correlation between napping and higher productivity, but no studies have done the same for creativity. First, he would have to decide how to measure creativity. Then, he would have to find research subjects and find the amount of rest that works best for each person. Fox said that laying out research should begin in a few months. He expects that the department will have enough information to publish their findings in two years. "This gift turns into a serious research opportunity," Fox said. "To me, that's the real story."

The nap pod is only available to faculty in the Creative Studies Department. Fox said that was because it was breakable. However, he said that once research begins, students may be selected as subjects and have the opportunity to use it.

The nap pod was a prize in Dove's Irritation-Free Mondays contest, which asked contestants to describe how one of the prizes would make their Mondays less irritating. Other prizes included a home gym and personal trainer, \$5,000 to start a business and a helicopter ride to and from work.

This article first appeared in SUNY Buffalo State's student-run newspaper, The Record: http://www.buffstaterecord.com/2904/news/nap-pod-to-aid-in-creative-research/#sthash.uFd4JZqH.dpuf







P.O. Box 410 • 105 Center Road • West Seneca, NY 14224

# Up To 20,000 Engineers Expected In Buffalo for Summer Conference

#### By Cory Nealon

As many as 2,000 engineers will visit Western New York in August to participate in a four-day conference in downtown Buffalo focusing on advanced manufacturing and design. The conference will bring together industry leaders in medical devices, automobiles, aerospace, defense and other businesses, as well academics, students and government officials. They will discuss advancements in robotics, computer-aided engineering, 3-D printing and other emerging technologies.

In addition to Fortune 500 companies like General Electric and Lockheed Martin, the conference will include Moog, Praxair, AirSep and other firms in the Buffalo Niagara region. Hosted by the University at Buffalo, the ASME 2014 International Design and Engineering Technical Conferences & Computers and Information in Engineering Conference (IDETC/CIE) will take place Aug. 17-20. ASME stands for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

As part of the conference, ASME will introduce a new program, the Advanced Design and Manufacturing Impact Forum, designed to highlight the opportunities and potential of the latest advanced manufacturing solutions. For more information, visit: go.asme.org/impactforum.

"This conference will bring together people, from our own backyard and across the world, who are developing solutions to the most pressing problems that we as a society face. They're building safer automobiles. They're creating smarter medical devices.

They're creating smarter medical devices. They're making our factories more efficient," said Liesl Folks, PhD, dean of the UB School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Among the many speakers are: Lt. Col. Dan Bailey, program manager for the

Department of Defense's Future Vertical Lift helicopter; Helmuth Ludwig, chief executive officer of Siemens industry sector in the United States; and Mike Hess, vice president of Bradycardia Research and Development in Medtronic's Cardiac Rhythm Disease

Management division.

For more conference details, visit: www.asmeconferences.org/idetc2014/.

Hosted recently in Portland, Ore., Chicago and Washington, D.C., the conference is a win for Buffalo, said Venkat Krovi, PhD, the conference's general chair and UB associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering.

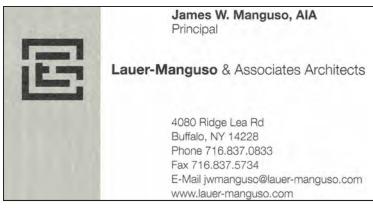
It comes as UB, working with Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, commits its expertise and resources to help accelerate the development of emerging manufacturing technologies at the Advanced Manufacturing Institute, 847 Main St., in downtown Buffalo. Cuomo recently announced the state will spend \$45 million on machinery, equipment and other needs for the facility, which will be operated by EWI, a nonprofit engineering services research and development company.

"The institute and the conference, as well as other initiatives at UB, illustrate that the university and the Buffalo Niagara region are moving in the right direction," Krovi said. "We are working to advance the development and commercialization of design and manufacturing technologies that will support economic growth and create new good-paying jobs in Western New York and beyond."

UB also recently launched the New York State Center of Excellence in Materials Informatics, which will utilize the university's expertise in materials science, computer science and engineering to address a wide range of societal needs. That includes everything from the depletion of natural resources to the development of new technologies in medicine, energy, defense and other industries.

The conference will be held at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center.

This information appeared on the University at Buffalo's website (http://www.buffalo.edu/news/releases/2014/03/0071.html).





#### **MEETING MINUTES**

Drilling

ATV Rigs

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Monitoring Wells

Earthprobe Rigs

Hand Augers

**Attendees:** Officers: Closs, Plizga, Samol, Scofidio

Board Members: Masse, Mooney, Owens, Wach

Members: Sanfilippo, Wightman

Call to Order: President Matt Plizga called the meeting to order at 6:10pm

Minutes: The Minutes of February were reviewed and approved.

**Committee Reports** 

**Advertising:** Don Owens has two new advertisers for newsletter,

Schutt & Associates and Manguso

Audit: No Report

**Bowling:** St Patty's Day bowling will be April 25th. Jeff is

working to double the league to 20 teams. In progress

Bylaws: No Report

**Education:** Education Committee is going well. Some reduction

in the FE course. PE review started mid-January at \$800 per person. Much cheaper than online courses.

FE students can audit for free.

**Endowment:** No Report

**Entertainment:** Adopt a Highway / AKA "Junk warriors" April 12 at

10am

**Fundraising:** No Report

Golf: Date is set for August 5 and will be n honor of Ed Watts. Looking for items for donation for the silent auction

**Historian:** No Report

Media: Added new content to the webpage. Rotating business card. 2 new pages - Scholarship run and golf.

Newsletter: No Report

Nominating: Candidates bio and picture are due April 15th for inclusion in the newsletter. Election will be held in May

Scholarship: No Report

Scholarship Run: Will honor John Beishline this year. Planning is going well and expects to make a big impact this year.

Sunshine: Paul Georgeades (85-86) daughter Andrea Migliore passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Next Meeting: Monday April 7, 2014 - An-Cor 900 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda

How many fools did you find? Including the one on this page, there are this many in this issue

of the WNY Engineer:

15x4=a a/2=b b+18=c c-6=d d/3=e

e-4=the answer

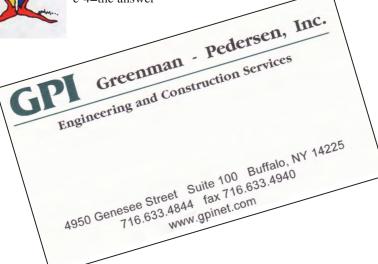
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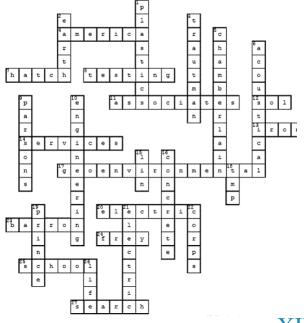
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This April Fool's edition of the WNY Engineer has been brought to you by the letters B, S, E, and of course the number 1677. Hopefully, April showers will in fact bring May flowers!

Happy April Fool's Day! How many times can you spot the fool in this issue?



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