

## NEWS

# News Blurbs Now! (NBN)

Members of the University at Buffalo's American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) student chapter earned third place overall in the 2014 ASCE Upstate New York Regional Student Conference hosted at Cornell University on April 24-26. The UB team earned second place overall for the second consecutive year in the steel bridge competition with a structure weighing in at 135 lbs. The structure's total aggregate deflection measurement was 2.46 inches. The team also took sixth place overall in the concrete canoe competition.

The American Society of Civil Engineers reports that a team of seven civil engineers from their Technical Council on Forensic Engineering have traveled to the Philippines for a week long mission to conduct post-disaster assessments in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. The specific objectives of this project were to collect perishable data on wind and water damaged structures, to correlate this data to the storm surge level from the coast to inland, and to develop the framework and recommendations for future improvements to ASCE recommended design and construction practices. Feel free to check out their blog at <http://blogs.asce.org/field-report-post-disaster-assessment-of-typhoon-haiyan-day-1>



Devastation by Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines.  
Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

AccuMED Innovative Technologies is searching for a Project Engineer, Quality Engineer, Product Development Engineer, and Product Development Engineering Manager. Visit [monster.com](http://monster.com) under AccuMED for complete listings.



Volland Electric Equipment Corp acquired some new faces recently: Lisa Thompson was hired as corporate controller, Garrett Gallagher as an electrical engineer for its field service group, and Shawn Johnston as safety coordinator. Volland was founded in 1943, is ISO 9002 certified, and is WNY's largest rotating electrical apparatus repair and distribution company.



The list of speakers for the Advanced Design and Manufacturing Impact Forum (coming to Buffalo in August) is growing. It now includes over fifty people such as the CEOs of Makerbot, Siemens USA, Airsep, MOOG, and ICONICS.

Do you still use Internet Explorer? Well if you haven't heard already, the Department of Homeland Security is recommending that you stop using it until Microsoft addresses a zero-day exploit that is present on

Internet Explorer 6 and higher. Now would be a great time to find yourself a new browser. Maybe Chrome or Firefox? Speak with your nearest IT friend for help!

Picone Construction just finished interior renovations to the Amherst Health Center located at 1185 Sweet Home Road. Reception and waiting areas were modified to provide a children's waiting area and a central reception area with privacy screens to accommodate four staff check-in locations. Work included carpentry, millwork, solid surface, wood windows, trim, metal doors/frames, drywall partitions, acoustic ceilings/cloud systems, vinyl composition tile, carpet, painting, HVAC, and electrical. Renovations were made while the facility maintained regular operations. LaBella Associates was the architect and LeChase



Construction was the construction manager.

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*It was the best of times,  
it was the worst of times!*

It is nearing the end of the year for the ESB board! The officers' responsibilities last through August but summer is a welcome sight after a long year at ESB. I want to give a sincere and heartfelt thanks for all of those who took the time out of their personal lives to give back to ESB. We accomplished great things this year and gained momentum that will carry over into the next board year. I would like to welcome future President Marco Scofidio. I feel that with the momentum we have gained in the past two years, the 2014-2015 year will be a breakout year for ESB. Thank you to the board for working so hard and coming to almost every board meeting. We had almost 100% participation from the board this year. Thank you.

I was thinking about our student members and how most, if not all, students have an online presence. They're active on LinkedIn and Facebook and are attached to their smart phones. They are very concerned with networking and finding a job. I have a secret for our student members: "Join a board"! The power and importance of the people on the ESB board is immeasurable. They can

accomplish anything when they put their minds to it. Their network and professional connections are unmatched. That's the secret to networking: working with someone else in the community to accomplish great things. When a future employer knows of your work ethic before you interview with them, this is worth more than any online job seeking advice.

ESB is still looking to fill a few spots on the board for next year. Send us an email and we will take care of the rest. It is a great experience. I won't be in charge next year but will be excited to work on the projects that I didn't have time to do this year.

Even though the year is close to over, there are many events at the society that are just getting going. Keep in mind our scholarship race on July 23rd and our golf outing in connection with BEAM on August 5th. Thank you to everyone who made my experience as President a great one. : )

Matthew J Plizga PE  
ESB President  
mplizga811@aol.com

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

06-01-14	ESB Scholarship Applications Due	
06-07-14	6pm Ways and Means Meeting	2555 Walden Ave, Buffalo (Wendt Corp)
06-07-14	7pm Directors Meeting	2555 Walden Ave, Buffalo (Wendt Corp)
07-07-14	6pm Ways and Means Meeting	562 Genesee St, Buffalo (Ukrainian Cultural)
07-07-14	7pm Directors Meeting	562 Genesee St, Buffalo (Ukrainian Cultural)
07-23-14	ESB Annual Scholarship Run	NFTA Small Boat Harbor
08-05-14	ESB/BEAM Golf Tournament	1330 Broadway, Darien (Chestnut Hills Country Club)
08-17 to 08-20	Advanced Design and Manufacturing Impact Forum	Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center



**NEXT BIG ESB EVENT**

# 34th Annual ESB Scholarship Run



July 23th

at

**NFTA Small Boat Harbor  
1111 Fuhrmann Boulevard  
Buffalo, NY 14203**

## In Memory of John Beishline

### Bronze Sponsor up to \$499

- Placement of logo on donation boards at race
- Company name and logo displayed on [www.tesb.org](http://www.tesb.org) for a year



John Beishline (ESB President 70-71 & 88-89)  
& Co Founder of the Scholarship Race

To reserve your tax deductible sponsorship, complete and mail the information below (by July 16th) along with your check to:

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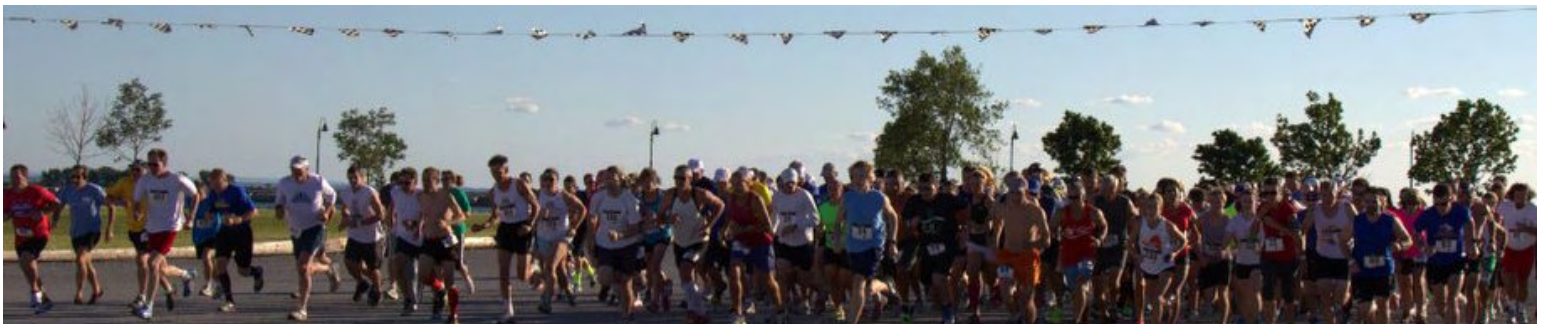
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## TECHNICAL ARTICLE

# A Century of Transport: The Panama Canal

By Tara Pfarner

The Panama Canal officially opened on August 15, 1914. Work on the canal was begun in 1881 by the French but the project proved problematic and the United States took it over in 1904. It took another decade to complete this conduit across the Isthmus of Panama. It turned into one of the largest and most difficult engineering projects the world has ever seen. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers has named it one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.

The idea for a canal across Panama dates back to 1534, when King Charles V of Spain ordered a survey for a route through the Americas to decrease travel time between Spain and Peru and give the Spanish military an advantage. The idea was picked up and abandoned several times until William Kennish, employed by the United States government, surveyed the Isthmus and issued a report for a proposed canal in 1855. Twenty-two years later, two French engineers surveyed the route and published another proposal. As the French had already seen success in building the Suez Canal, another seemed promising.

In their rush to begin work on the new project, the geology and hydrology of the rain soaked tropics and unstable mountains proved a challenge to the men directing the project, who had little or no engineering training or experience. Landslides were a constant problem and steel equipment rusted rapidly in the arid climate. Malaria, yellow fever, and other health risks contributed to a high mortality rate and made it difficult to maintain an experienced workforce.

The US formally took over the canal property in 1904 and established a commission to oversee construction. An engineering panel recommended using a lock system to raise and lower ships from a large reservoir, in turn creating both the largest dam and the largest man-made lake in the world at the time. Water from Gatun Lake would be taken to refill the locks by opening and closing enormous gates and valves and letting gravity propel the water from the lake. The lake would connect the Pacific through the mountains. The construction of a lock system canal required the excavation of more than an additional 170,000,000 cubic yards of material over and above the 30,000,000 cubic yards already excavated. Old equipment

was replaced with new that was designed for larger scale, faster work, including railroad-mounted steam shovels, steam-powered cranes, giant hydraulic rock crushers, cement mixers, dredges, and pneumatic power drills. With these improvements came an upgrade in the railroad system as well. Sanitation projects were also undertaken to protect public health, including measures to halt the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

By the time the canal was completed in 1914, the US had spent almost \$375 million (equivalent to \$8.6 billion today).



Marion Steam Shovel Model 90, pictured in 1908 at work on the Panama Canal. Image credit: Wikipedia.

The canal operated for over fifteen years before major changes were needed. The Madden Dam was built across the Chagres River in the 1930's, creating Madden Lake, to provide additional water storage for the canal. In 1939, construction began on a new set of locks which were large enough to carry the larger warships necessitated by the onset of World War II. Significant excavation was carried out, but the project was cancelled after the war. In recent years, nearly \$1 billion has been invested in widening and modernizing the canal, deepening its Atlantic and Pacific entrances, increasing and improving its tugboat fleet, and creating plans for additional locks with the goal of increasing capacity by 20%.

More than 30 ships pass through the Panama Canal each day. It doesn't seem like a lot but that averages out to 1.25 per hour. Who knows, the things you use each day may have crossed an engineering wonder on their way to you!

Tara Pfarner is an administrative assistant at RJR Engineering in Springville, NY.



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STUDENT INFO

# A Guide In Creating A Resume

By Lois Weldon

If you're close to graduation and you're interested in finding yourself a college job, having a polished and well-written resume is definitely a must! This is essential in getting that perfect summer job so you can make a little extra money before starting college. Here is an easy guide on how to create a resume, especially if you don't have much information about how to start a resume.

**The Content of your resume:**

Try searching for sample resumes online or better yet, ask for some sample resumes from adults that you may know. You can use those as guides in starting your resume. Basically, your resume should include content about yourself such as your full name, address, contact number, educational background, seminars (if necessary or relevant to job), achievements, skills and work experience. Most students are afraid that they lack work experience because they haven't had any. It doesn't necessarily mean that if the work experience is empty that you aren't efficient in getting a job.

A major rule is to be honest! Don't make up work experience because if you're caught, you're most likely not going to get the job and also be called a dishonest person. Remember that a resume is not a work history. It is a chance to show employers that you have the necessary skills to be competent for the job.

**Heading:** The heading should include your name, mailing address, contact number and email address. If you have a professional website you can also include this if you feel it is needed for more information about yourself. Before choosing any job, make sure that it is a safe and legitimate company.

**Education background:** In this area, list all the schools that you have finished. Include the dates that you started and graduated. You can also include your special learning experiences and certifications that you have obtained. If you have completed a thesis, you can also mention this briefly. If you are yet to earn a degree, you can include your anticipated date of graduation. Example: Bachelor of Business Administration, Expected May 2014

**Objective:** In this section, you should write one to two sentences that describe your goals.

**Work or Training Experience:** Make sure that you describe only previous jobs that have a direct effect on your qualifications for the current position. If you don't have work history, don't force it. You can also include training experience that would be related to your current position.

**Skills:** Try spending more time in this section because it should be the part where the employer's attention is drawn. You may include your skills on the computer (include a specific software or program that you are able to work with), foreign languages that you can speak fluently, and creative skills. Read over the job description to let it inspire you once again and find more skills about yourself that are relevant to the job. Don't copy what is on their list, but just use it as inspiration for your resume.

**Honors, awards and achievements:** This is an area that you don't have to include. But it really depends on you. It could be used to "fill up" empty space and could also highlight your special achievements. It is always good to include academic awards because they do show your diligence and hard work in school which could say a lot about your personality.

**Activities and Special Interests:** Then again, this is also another "filler" of empty space. It could be useful to show intangible skills that you have such as leadership and excellent communication skills. You can include a club or group that you feel is relevant to the job you're applying for but don't mention every single one because it could bore the employer. Consider listing the impressive roles that you have held for your group or club.

**The Style of your Resume:** Do intensive research on how you want your resume to look. Remember that the employer may have dozens and dozens of resumes to choose from so make sure that your resume stands out from all the rest. You may search for templates online and change it into your style. Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

1. Your resume should just be one page and single-sided
2. Keep your resume clean with a simple font
3. Print it out in black ink and on white paper

**Final Tip to Remember:** Edit at least three, four, or even five times. Double, triple, and even quadruple check your spelling and for grammatical errors. Even if your resume can't be perfect, it should be as close to it as possible so it will look flawless to the employers reading it. Before sending in your resume, double check every single section and make sure that it describes you...the real YOU.

Lois Weldon is a writer at [uk.bestdissertation.com](http://uk.bestdissertation.com) and she lives happily in London with her husband and daughter. She adores writing tips for students, is passionate about Star Wars, and enjoys yoga. This article originally appeared at [www.abetterinterview.com](http://www.abetterinterview.com) and is reprinted with permission.

# Local/Online PDH Opportunities

For additional information regarding these opportunities, contact our office at [ESB1894@gmail.com](mailto:ESB1894@gmail.com) or 716-873-4455. Discounts for some pricing are available for certain society members, small companies, etc. And if you have information regarding future PDH opportunities that 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](http://www.tesb.org).

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All	Varies	Online	Multiple at <a href="http://continuingeducation.zweigwhite.com">http://continuingeducation.zweigwhite.com</a>	Free
All	Varies	Online	Multiple at <a href="http://www.csemag.com/media-library/on-demand-webcasts.html">http://www.csemag.com/media-library/on-demand-webcasts.html</a>	Free
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# Floating Nuclear Plants Could Ride Out Tsunamis

By David L Chandler

When an earthquake and tsunami struck the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant complex in 2011, neither the quake nor the inundation caused the ensuing contamination. Rather, it was the aftereffects - specifically, the lack of cooling for the reactor cores, due to a shutdown of all power at the station - that caused most of the harm.

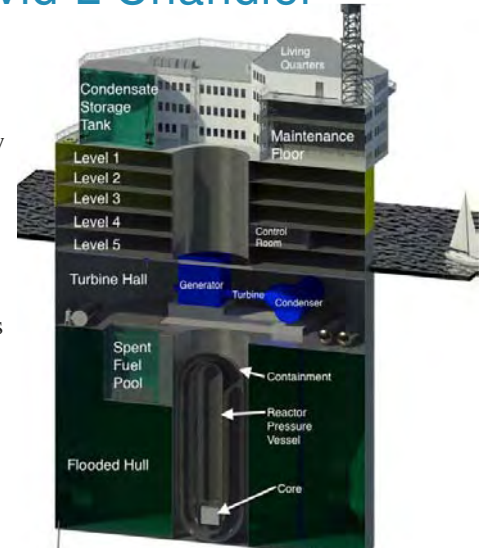
A new design for nuclear plants built on floating platforms, modeled after those used for offshore oil drilling, could help avoid such consequences in the future. Such floating plants would be designed to be automatically cooled by the surrounding seawater in a worst-case scenario, which would indefinitely prevent any melting of fuel rods or escape of radioactive material.

The concept was presented at the Small Modular Reactors Symposium, hosted by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, by MIT professors Jacopo Buongiorno, Michael Golay, and Neil Todreas, along with others from MIT, the University of Wisconsin, and Chicago Bridge and Iron, a major nuclear plant and offshore platform construction company.

Such plants, Buongiorno explains, could be built in a shipyard, then towed to their destinations five to seven miles offshore where they would be moored to the seafloor and connected to land by an underwater electric transmission line. The concept takes advantage of two mature technologies: light-water nuclear reactors and offshore oil and gas drilling platforms. Using established designs minimizes technological risks, says Buongiorno, an associate professor of nuclear science and engineering (NSE) at MIT.

Although the concept of a floating nuclear plant is not unique - Russia is in the process of building one now on a barge moored at the shore - none have been located far enough offshore to be able to ride out a tsunami, Buongiorno says. For this new design, he says "the biggest selling point is the enhanced safety."

A floating platform several miles offshore, moored in about 100 meters of water, would be unaffected by the motions of a tsunami; earthquakes would have no effect at all. Meanwhile, the biggest issue that faces most nuclear plants under emergency conditions - overheating and potential meltdown, as happened at Fukushima, Chernobyl, and Three Mile Island - would be virtually impossible at sea, Buongiorno says: "It's very close to the ocean, which is essentially an infinite heat sink, so it's possible to do cooling



Cutaway view of the proposed plant shows that the reactor vessel itself is located deep underwater, with its containment vessel surrounded by a compartment flooded with seawater, allowing for passive cooling even in the event of an accident.  
Illustration credit: Jake Jurewicz/MIT-NSE

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 8

passively with no intervention. The reactor containment itself is essentially underwater.”

Buongiorno lists several other advantages. For one thing, it is increasingly difficult and expensive to find suitable sites for new nuclear plants. They usually need to be next to an ocean, lake, or river to provide cooling water but shorefront properties are highly desirable. By contrast, sites offshore, but out of sight of land, could be located adjacent to the population centers they would serve. “The ocean is inexpensive real estate,” Buongiorno says.

In addition at the end of a plant’s lifetime, “decommissioning” could be accomplished by simply towing it away to a central facility, as is done now for the Navy’s carrier and submarine reactors. That would rapidly restore the site to pristine conditions.

This design could also help to address practical construction issues that have tended to make new nuclear plants uneconomical: Shipyard construction allows for better standardization, and the all-steel design eliminates the use of concrete, which Buongiorno says is often responsible for construction delays and cost overruns.

There are no particular limits to the size of such plants, he says. They could be anywhere from small 50-megawatt plants to 1,000-megawatt plants matching today’s largest facilities. “It’s a flexible concept,” Buongiorno says.

Most operations would be similar to those of onshore plants and the plant would be designed to meet all regulatory security requirements for terrestrial plants. “Project work has confirmed the feasibility of achieving this goal including satisfaction of the extra concern of protection against underwater attack,” says Todreas, the KEPCO Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

Buongiorno sees a market for such plants in Asia which has a combination of high tsunami risks and a rapidly growing need for new power sources. “It would make a lot of sense for Japan,” he says, as well as places such as Indonesia, Chile, and Africa.

This is a “very attractive and promising proposal,” says Toru Obara, a professor at the Research Laboratory for Nuclear Reactors at the Tokyo Institute of Technology who was not involved in this research. “I think this is technically very feasible. Of course, further study is needed to realize the concept, but the authors have the answers to each question and the answers are realistic.”

The paper was co-authored by NSE students Angelo Briccetti, Jake Jurewicz, and Vincent Kindfuller; Michael Corradini of the University of Wisconsin; and Daniel Fadel, Ganesh Srinivasan, Ryan Hannink, and Alan Crowle of Chicago Bridge and Iron, based in Canton, Mass.

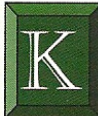
David L. Chandler is a writer for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology News Office and can be reached at [dlc1@mit.edu](mailto:dlc1@mit.edu). This article is reprinted with permission from the MIT News Office.



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# Showcase Your Talents

By Marc DeBoer

Whether you are a high school student, college grad or an experienced job seeker, you need to prepare yourself for the job search process. We are currently experiencing a massive shift in the way people are being interviewed and if you are not keeping up with the trends, then you will be lost in the crowd of other applicants.

When we think about the traditional interview and job search... resumes, in-person interviews and reference checks all come to mind. While it's mostly still the same today, more items are being added to that list. Now, employers want you to show them how you can add value instead of just telling them in an interview. Today's interviews are simply filled with "words" and we as human beings each interpret "words" differently. For example, some people stress some syllables in words more than others and emphasize certain words over others.

The goal of the interviewer is to cut through what you are saying and determine if you will be a good fit for the role, department and company. Your goal needs to be helping the interviewer visualize you in the role; yet how can we do that with simply "words"? One technique is to combine your interview with something visual. Maybe there is a school project you've been working on that you can bring with you to the interview or perhaps you have a blog discussing engineering where you can share the link. Whatever it is, work on creating something that you can actually show the interviewer that will highlight your talents. Help them understand the type of positive impact you will have on their company by hiring you, but don't just tell them, show them!

Marc DeBoer is the President of A Better Interview, LLC and he strives to help people achieve their true interviewing potential so that they may land their dream job. He would appreciate if you would let him know ([marc@abetterinterview.com](mailto:marc@abetterinterview.com)) what kind of tips you



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# MEETING MINUTES

**Attendees:** Officers: Closs, Plizga, Scofidio  
Board Members: Bandriwsky, Kolber, Masse, Mooney, Owens,  
Members: SanFilippo  
Nonmembers: Steve Golyski

**Call to Order:** President Matt Plizga called the meeting to order at 6:17pm

**Minutes:** The minutes of April were reviewed and approved

## Committee Reports

**Advertising:** No report

**Audit:** No report

**Bowling:** The Jeff M. reported that the bowling banquet went well and that a contract has been signed for 2014-15.

**Bylaws:** No report

**Education:** No report

**Endowment:** No report

**Entertainment:** May 25 Buffalo Marathon water stop volunteers needed.

**Fundraising:** No report

**Golf:** No report

**Historian:** No report

**Media:** Marco S has made some minor revisions to website. Three job ads added.

**Newsletter:** No report

**Nominating:** Election on hold.

**Scholarship:** No report

**Scholarship Run:** Steve S. mentioned that 15 volunteers would be needed for the water stop at mile 15 of the run (Linwood and W. Utica). Matt P. reported: 6 x 8 color flyers advertising the run will be printed; unit cost of tee shirts will be \$4.40; the route will be different than in the past, but will remain on NFTA property; planning meeting would take place on 5/7/14.

**Sunshine:** No report

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:34pm.

**Next Meetings:** June 2, 2014 Wendt Corporation 2555 Walden Ave, Buffalo  
July 7, 2014 Ukrainian Cultural Center 562 Genesee St, Buffalo

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# The Army Corps of Engineers Rehired Annuitant Cadre

By Jonathan Kolber PE

This article explains how retired federal personnel can extend their careers into retirement by being accepted into the Corps Rehired Annuitant Cadre.

The Rehired Annuitant Cadre was created in 2006 not long after Hurricane Katrina swept through Louisiana. It was formed to enable the retention of experienced Corps of Engineers staff after they retired. This program, which is completely voluntary, enables a federal retiree to extend his work eligibility into retirement. The cadre has an estimated 1400 members according to what I have been told, although only a fraction of that number have a work assignment at any given time. During the immediate timeframe following Katrina, more opportunities existed for retired annuitants to be temporarily rehired. This has dropped off in the past few years, subject to funding and mission constraints.

Eligibility to work in this program requires one to be retired from the federal government. The application is long, as the process starts from the beginning without reference to an employee's pre-retirement records. Most of the application is a one-time submission. However, an annual medical screening form is mandatory for continued inclusion in the cadre. After being accepted into this cadre, there are no guarantees for work assignments. By maintaining active membership in the cadre, a rehired annuitant is potentially available should his services be requested for an assignment, usually called a tasker.

When a tasker comes out, cadre members are solicited by telephone. After the tasker details are described, the rehired annuitant is asked for his interest in accepting the offer. Deployments generally last 30 days, but often are extended to 60 days, with provision to extend beyond that if needed. By accepting the offer, the annuitant usually has a limited amount of time to prepare for deployment. The person who has solicited the annuitant then nominates the annuitant. The receiving organization where the annuitant will report/work, then selects the annuitant, completing the formal hiring process. When the deployment is complete, the employee is "redeployed" (confusing term), which means "sent home" by the receiving organization and "received" (acknowledged to have returned home) by the nominator. This is done for accountability reasons and entered into a database called ENGLINK, which documents all personnel actions including the deployment itself.

There is no obligation to accept any work assignment/tasker as a rehired annuitant. However, at least in my experience, being offered work as a rehired annuitant is a rare occasion. This is not a two-way street – you wait for the phone to ring unless you are requested by someone by name who needs/wants you on a particular assignment. There is no time to wait on responses from employees and the first to reply/accept are usually the ones chosen. Also, there is no explanation given for how or why someone is solicited for a tasker. It makes it very difficult and next to impossible to plan for, but that is how the system works.

Continued on page 13



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Continued from page 14

As in normal federal service, the first year as a rehired annuitant is probationary. After a year, an employee in good standing is awarded a permanent status. (I was made “permanent” for a four year period following my successful completion of my first year.) One way to get kicked out of this program is to fail to keep your annual medical clearance current. Another is to enroll to work for another federal agency (such as FEMA) while a member of the Corps RAC. Only one is allowed.

Rehired annuitants are paid at their hourly rate upon retirement. The pay scale is adjusted for locality pay with the median rate across the Army Corps of Engineers, which is Walla Walla District. It is strange that, technically, all the rehired annuitants work for Walla Walla District in Washington.

The Rehired Annuitant Cadre is an interesting and innovative organization. Everyone involved, including administrative staff, must be a federal retiree. Although the Corps Rehired Annuitant Office is headquartered in Washington DC, its support staff works virtually out of homes across the country. I have found this virtual support staff to be extremely proficient and helpful while deployed. Various staff members handle different aspects of the employee’s deployment, including offering the assignment, travel arrangements, travel orders, time sheets, travel vouchers, and so forth. You will likely never meet or see the face of your support staff, but the work gets processed in a timely and efficient manner, which makes things much better.

Rehired annuitants work on a variety of Corps of Engineers projects. Some of the disciplines which seem to get the majority of work include construction management and civil engineering. Typical work assignments might include military construction, dams, contingency operations (i.e., Afghanistan), and disaster response. Although many federal employment regulations are the same before and after retirement, rehired annuitants receive no benefits (such as holidays or

leave) and tend to be more cost-effective to hire because their overhead/effective rate is lower.

When you deploy as a rehired annuitant, as I did recently to Colorado, you are required to travel with sufficient and proper clothing and gear to handle the mission. In addition, each employee must have his Common Access Card with him, which is identical to the CAC issued to other federal employees. This card, embedded with a gold computer chip, allows access to government computers while deployed and permits the employee to sign documents with his encrypted signature. Employees are not required to bring along laptops or other electronic devices. Those are signed out by the deploying agency for use during the deployment.



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# What Was Your PE Exam Like?

By Matthew J Plizga PE

Now that the April PE exam is behind us it got me thinking: **“What was your PE exam like?”**

I can tell you that my exam was both stressful and exciting at the same time. For me, it was like any exam experience in college. I’m not the best test taker! But when I received notice that I had passed, it was extreme jubilation. I received my notice from NYS via email. I checked my email around 10pm and when I found out I wanted to go outside and scream it from the roof tops. It was a feeling of accomplishment, pride, and satisfaction that all the hard work meant something. Gaining professional licensure gave me the feeling that I was finally respected in my field and respected by my peers.



Here are some of the other ESB member’s experiences:

Months of intense preparation, culminating in a physical and emotional testing experience that drains you. Followed by relief that the task was

accomplished and jubilation when the notice arrives in the mail that you passed. It’s right up there with assembling a kids toy on Christmas Eve, your wife giving birth to your first child, and doing your taxes before the age of computers, all at the same time!

~Gary D. Shoffstall, PE

Of course being nervous was unavoidable, but being prepared helped to overcome that, although I never felt prepared enough. I found taking the exam (both parts) so many years after college (12 and 14 years respectively) actually proved to be an advantage due to the many years of experience gained. Lastly, when waiting for my test results to come in the mail, I was told a thin envelope was a good sign and a thicker envelope was a bad sign, because the thicker envelope included re-application forms. That proved to be true when I received very thin envelopes. ~Brian D. Shiah, PE



Continued on page 15

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Continued from page 14

I took my Civil Engineering PE exam in Rochester in April 2006. I felt I had prepared well by studying about 15 hours a week for a few months prior to the exam. I also had taken the ESB/PE Society's review course and an online course. The exam was multiple choice with a general part in the morning and a discipline-specific part in the afternoon. After the first part of the exam, I wasn't sure whether I had passed, but after the second part (water resources) I was fairly sure I passed. I thought it was a very good exam which every engineer should experience. The most surprising part of the day was that the exit ramp of the parking garage I used had collapsed that afternoon (no one was injured). After the exam we were delayed in leaving until it was determined the rest of the structure was sound.

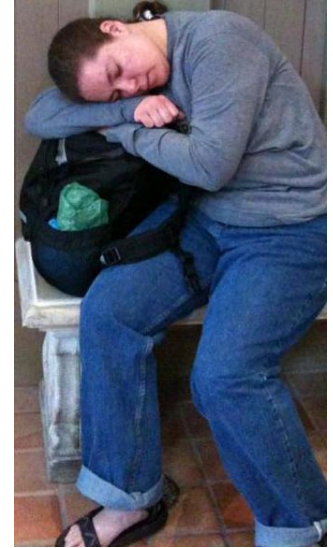


~Rebecca Wightman, PE

Over ten years ago, I took the eight hour PE exam on a Friday and then the eight hour SE exam the very next day.

The 16 hour SE exam didn't exist back then and I had to travel to Illinois to be able to take the SE exam. I was thankful that my company paid for the trip. I'm not sure how much tv my son watched while I took my exams, but we had a lot of fun exploring Chicago after. I felt that the PE exam's multiple choice questions were much more difficult to traverse than the essay questions on the SE exam. There were two essay questions in the morning and two in the afternoon. These essay questions were very similar to the things that I designed every day. Piece of cake! Maybe I found day one much more difficult because I spent well over a half hour on a two minute problem. They didn't update the answer choices with the current code's thi value. It was a simple equation for the shear capacity of concrete and I couldn't understand why I wasn't getting one of the multiple choice answers. When I looked in the older edition of my code book, I finally figured it out. And after my exam...very relaxing sleep.

~Robin M Closs SE PE



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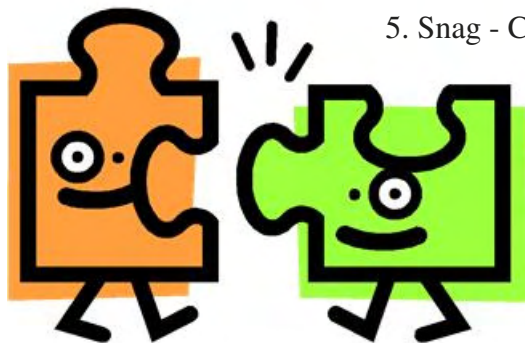
Inside each set of the following words, there are a pair of smaller words. By putting the & sign between them, lo & behold, you'll make a familiar phrase. For example, within "Thighbone/Swallowtail" you can find the word high within thighbone and the word low within swallowtail. This makes the popular phrase "High & Low."

1. Skyrocketing/Trolleyman
2. Thermometer/Apoplexy
3. Delaware/Bordering
4. Surprised/Trashiness
5. Throughout/Stumblebum

## Letter Movers

Take the given words and by moving a single letter from one word to the other, make a pair of synonyms or near synonyms. For example, given Boast - Hip, move the 's' from 'Boast' to 'Hip' creating two synonyms: Boat - Ship.

1. Inks - Tiles
2. Ride - Relive
3. Gaze - Freed
4. Snail - Pike
5. Snag - Cold



Can't figure these out?  
The solutions are on page 19.



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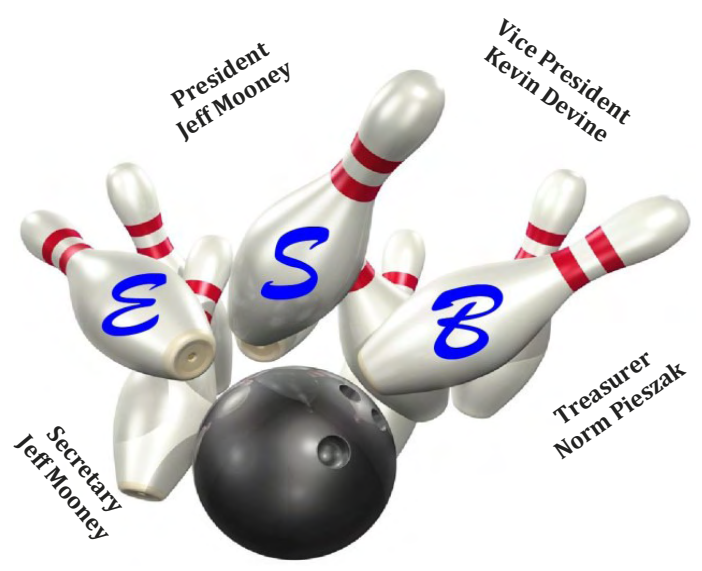
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Team Standings Week 33	Won	Lost
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2. CAD/CAMS	162	135
3. K & K TREATS	162	135
4. TRANSMITTERS	153	144
5. PINHEADS	152	145
6. ARCHER IMAGING	148.5	148.5
7. SPLIT HAPPENS	147	150
8. DEAD LOADS	137.5	159.5
9. PROTRACTORS	136	161
10. LOOSE CANNONS	121	176

Congrats to Jim Franc and Julia Hay for being the most improved male and female bowler!

Way to go Outcasts...

- Ian Sutherland
- Julia Hay
- Scott Sutherland
- Norm Dudziak
- Ed Grembowicz






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To reserve your tax deductible sponsorship, complete and mail the information below along with your check to:

**The Engineering Society of Buffalo, Inc.**

C/O Jeff Wach

1700 Clinton St

Buffalo, NY 14206

Phone 716-826-4233

Make your check payable to "ESB"

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:     Titanium                       Platinum                       Gold                       Silver



# Golf Information

**When:** Tuesday August 5, 2013  
 9:00 am Registration & Open Practice Range  
 10:00 am Shotgun Start

**Where:** Chestnut Hills Country Club  
 1330 Broadway Darien, NY

**Fee Includes:** 18 Holes of Golf with cart, Bucket of Balls on Driving Range,  
 Lunch at the Turn, NY Strip Steak Dinner, Contests,  
 Awards, Prizes, and Beverage Cart during play

**Questions:** Email Jeff Wach at [jwach@egwpersonnel.com](mailto:jwach@egwpersonnel.com)



# Golf Registration

Captain / Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check (payable to ESB) at:  
 The Engineering Society of Buffalo  
 C/O Jeff Wach  
 1700 Clinton St  
 Buffalo, NY 14206  
 716-826-4233

Please register me for:

\$360 Foursome - Other golfer names \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\$190 Twosome - Other golfer name \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$100 Single Golfer \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$30 Dinner Only – Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

*Sorry to David Baker and Norm Hirschey who were identified as each other on page 3 of the May edition. Robin needs to stop editing the newsletter so late at night!*

Letter Movers  
 1. Links - Ties  
 2. Rid - Relieve  
 3. Graze - Feed  
 4. Nail - Spike  
 5. Nag - Scold


Two of a Kind  
 1. Rock & Roll  
 2. Mom & Pop  
 3. Law & Order  
 4. Rise & Shine  
 5. Rough & Tumble

Answers from Word Play, page 16:



**ESB Scholarship Run  
Post Race Party**



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**Golf see page 18-19**



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