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LOCAL INTEREST

A Positive Perspective on Buffalo

By Tara Pfarner

We're used to hearing negative things about Buffalo...snow storms, declining population, jobs leaving the area. Finally, we've made it onto a positive list! CNBC.com published a list of the best places to relocate to in the United States. The Buffalo-Niagara region ranked #2, behind only Pittsburgh. Our area ranked higher than cities such as Fort Worth, Denver, and Indianapolis in this national list.

The article's author acknowledges that Buffalo has gone through a difficult transition in recent years and is now a great place to live. Positive aspects of the area listed include generous green space, with over twenty parks in the "City of Trees" and a growing arts scene.

(Ani DiFranco's conversion of the historic, 19th century Asbury Delaware United Methodist Church into a performance and gallery space now known as Asbury Hall saved the building and made national headlines.) We seem to hear about more and more investors and developers rejuvenating run-down buildings towards their former glory from Buffalo's heyday.

Economically, the cost of living in the Buffalo-Niagara region is 14% below the national average and average home prices here are just over 30% below the national average at the time the article was published. A steadily declining unemployment rate, with the largest growth in education and healthcare, is also a draw to bring people to the area.

The article lists the Bills and Sabres as area highlights as well...anyone who's been here for any length of time knows that while the teams might not be the best in their leagues, the fans are. Buffalo is famous for its enthusiasm for sports and support of their teams through good and bad times.

The article included Niagara Falls as part of this region, which we don't always agree with, but you can't argue with the fact that recent improvements in Niagara Falls serve to attract business travelers and tourists alike. And really, how many cities have something as awe-inspiring as Niagara Falls in their backyard? We sometimes take our area for granted, but when you think about it, it's really a pretty good place to live.



Niagara Falls photo by Robin M Closs

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What's a PE?

A Professional Engineer is someone who has demonstrated the basic engineering knowledge in their respective field of engineering. It also means that you have gained the respect of your peers, can take on more responsibility from your employer and have the pride and satisfaction of knowing that all your hard work has paid off. As my father said "It's a nice feather in your cap!" Only a licensed engineer may prepare, sign and seal, and submit engineering plans and drawings to a public authority for approval, or seal engineering work for public and private clients.

What are the prerequisites for the exam itself? One path includes graduating from a four year ABET accredited engineering program, such as the one from UB. Then you have

to pass the FE (Fundamentals of Engineering) exam. This exam is moving to an all computer-based format system in 2014 and open all year long. Once you have passed the FE exam, you will have to work under a licensed engineer in the field for four years and submit your documented experience to the engineering and land surveying board (part of the state education department). Then you can sit for the PE exam.

The PE exam itself is eight hours long broken into two parts, the Breadth (am) and Depth (pm) sections. The morning session is taken by all examinees and I feel is more difficult because there are five very different

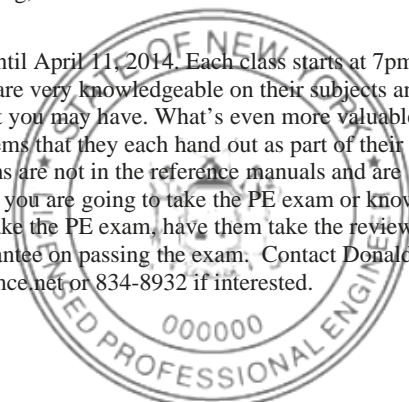
subjects. For Civil PE's, they are Construction, Geotechnical, Structural, Transportation, and Water Resources/Environmental. The Depth portion of the exam is broken down by discipline. A concentration of one of the five listed from above.

The PE exam is offered two times a year, once in April and once in October. The NCEES online registration for the PE exam will open on December 2, 2013 and can be accessed through their website at www.ncees.org.

Did you know that ESB is one of the few organizations that offer a review course for the PE exam? Don McMahon (ESB Past President in 2004-05) heads up the review class. Having personally taken the class, I can say that it is well worth the investment. Each class is taught by either UB professors or respected professionals in their field. The classes are held at the University at Buffalo North Campus and are broken up into two nights per section. They begin on January 16, 2014. The cost of the review class is \$850 and includes the "Civil Engineering Reference Manual for the PE Exam" by Michael R. Lindeburg, Problem/Solution text and instructors notes.

There are 11 classes that go until April 11, 2014. Each class starts at 7pm on Thursday. The instructors are very knowledgeable on their subjects and will answer any questions that you may have. What's even more valuable is the notes and sample problems that they each hand out as part of their class structure. These problems are not in the reference manuals and are worth their weight in gold! If you are going to take the PE exam or know an engineer who is going to take the PE exam, have them take the review class. It's a great way to guarantee on passing the exam. Contact Donald R McMahon at dmcmahon@mmce.net or 834-8932 if interested.

Matthew J Plizga PE
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12-02-13	5pm	Ukrainian Cultural Center Tour	562 Genesee St Buffalo
12-02-13	6pm	Ways and Means Meeting	562 Genesee St Buffalo
12-02-13	7pm	Directors Meeting	562 Genesee St Buffalo
12-04-13	12pm	OF Luncheon	Royal Restaurant
01-16-14	7pm	PE Exam Review Classes Begin	University at Buffalo North Campus
01-22-14	5:30pm	Catholic Health Building Tour	144 Genesee Street, Buffalo
01-06-14	6 pm	Ways and Means Meeting	TBD
01-06-14	7pm	Directors Meeting	TBD



ESB NEWS

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SEASONAL NEWS

Ever wonder why we celebrate this way? By Tara Pfarner



Christmas is possibly the most widely observed holiday on the planet with millions of people commemorating the day thought to be Jesus Christ's birthday. This has been celebrated on December 25 since the fourth century. Some countries still using the Julian calendar (such as Ethiopia, Russia, and Serbia) observe the day on January 7, accounting for the 13 day difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

Though it is a Christian holiday in the religious sense, the spirit of the holiday season, such as gift-giving, generosity, and kindness, has extended to many cultures and regions of the world, and the holiday is celebrated in some form by many non-Christians as well. Have you ever wondered about some of our Christmas traditions?

Decorations

The most obvious Christmas decoration is, of course, the

Christmas tree. The first reference to it was recorded in 1835 and represents an importation from the German language, though it is believed by some to be a Christianisation of pagan tradition and ritual surrounding the Winter Solstice. The triangular shape of the Christmas tree can be symbolically compared to the Holy Trinity. The modern Christmas tree tradition is believed to have begun either in 18th century Germany or with Martin Luther in the 16th century.

Music

Christmas hymns appear in history as early as the fourth century in Rome. In the 12th century, Parisian monk Adam of St. Victor began to derive music from popular songs, creating something closer to our traditional Christmas carol.



Continued on page 5



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Please send your birth month to ESB1894@gmail.com for inclusion!

SEASONAL NEWS

Continued from page 4



English-language Christmas carols first appear in a 1426 work of John Awdlay, who lists 25 "caroles of Cristemas [sic]", which were probably sung by wassailers while going door-to-door.

Secular seasonal songs made their appearance in the late 18th century, with "Deck the Halls" in 1874 and "Jingle Bells" in 1857. Christmas music became more commercial through the 20th century with songs being produced in many genres. Nowadays, Christmas music comes on the radio immediately following Halloween.

Food

What would a holiday be without food? Christians and non-Christians alike often use the occasion to gather for a good meal in the company of friends and family. Traditional holiday fare varies by region, culture, and even family. Eastern European



countries often serve fish as the main course of the Christmas meal. (Sicilians traditionally serve twelve kinds of fish on Christmas Eve!) English-speaking countries often eat turkey or goose, gravy, potatoes, vegetables and bread. Beef, ham, and chicken recipes are also popular throughout the world. And don't forget the sweets...their consumption has become a holiday tradition worldwide. Delicacies include the German stollen, marzipan cake or candy, and fruit cake. Oranges and nuts are also considered traditional Christmas foods.

Gift Giving

Tradition states that gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were given to the baby Jesus by the Magi, and gift giving has become a core of the Christmas season. There are many bearers of gifts worldwide: Father Christmas, also known as Santa Claus, Pere Noel, Kris Kringle, Babbo Natale, Father Frost, and Sinterklaas or Saint Nicholas. The traditions of each country and region vary, but all operate on the same principle. The giving spirit tends to overtake people in December, and philanthropy and generosity becomes more widespread at this time of year with donations and goodwill abounding. Gift giving also turns the season into a key sales period for retailers. However you celebrate this holiday season, be happy, safe, and prosperous in the new year!

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News Blurbs Now! (NBN)

It was recently announced that researchers at Carnegie Mellon University and the University at Buffalo have received a grant allowing them to collaborate on a \$4.6 million, five-year project to enhance public transportation and access for people with disabilities. This marriage of computer science technology and the principles of universal design aims to make transportation safer and more accessible for all riders.

Can't hear yourself think? Angevine Acoustical Consultants are experienced in the evaluation of sound levels, architectural acoustical designs, mechanical system noise control, and more.

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Did you know that EnSol, Inc. provides services ranging from environmental consulting and site planning to financial planning and systems integration?

Frey Electric provided underground high voltage feeders, interior lighting, machine controls and power, site lighting, and other services to the new Greenpack Mill facility in Niagara Falls.

Golder Associates was recently named as a Consortium Member on a US Army MATOC to develop geothermal and solar power generation projects for Department of Defense installations. They will work alongside team members such as Lockheed Martin and Veolia Energy.

Picone Construction Corp. has been honored in Buffalo Business First's 2013 American Institute of Architects Buffalo and Western New York Design Excellence Awards as Contractor for the Jamestown Gateway Station.

This Historic Preservation project received the Honor Award for extensive renovation to the original art deco style building while incorporating new functionality under the City of Jamestown's adaptive reuse initiative. As stated by the Jury, "... *sensitivity utilized in the restoration of this station impart a superb community building.* . . ."

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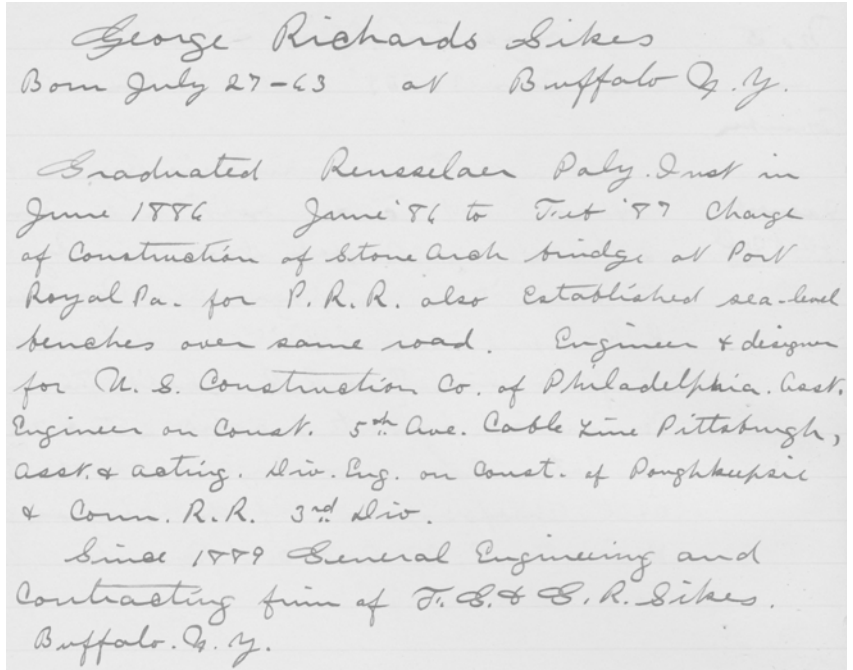
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One of ESB's Founders

GEORGE RICHARD SIKES was born in Buffalo on July 27, 1863. He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY in June of 1886. From then until February of the following year, he was placed in charge of construction for the historic Port Royal railroad overpass (also known as the Stone Arch Bridge) in Port Royal, PA, under the authority of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Mr. Sikes also helped to establish sea-level benches over this same road.

Among his other notable accomplishments are as engineer and designer of the N.S. Construction Company of Philadelphia, Assistant Engineer on the Construction of the Fifth Avenue Cable Line in Pittsburgh, and as Assistant and Acting Division Engineer on the Construction of the Poughkeepsie and Connecticut Railroad, Third Division.

In 1889, he and F.G. Sikes formed the general engineering and contracting firm of F.G. & G.R. Sikes in Buffalo. Around this time, he sent out letters inviting practicing engineers to join a "Society of Engineers" meeting in the committee room of the Common Council of the City of Buffalo. He is listed in an 1893 city directory as a civil engineer and surveyor at 122 Pearl Street in Buffalo. There is evidence that Mr. Sikes may have been



one of the city's first Boy Scout Masters as well, with the first troop founded in 1910.

George Sikes would be astounded by how the world has changed and how his "Society of Engineers" has evolved and grown!

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VPN - A Smart Move

By Tara Pfarner

With so many people working from home or from remote sites and connecting to the internet via WiFi, setting up a Virtual Private Network (VPN) is a must.

A VPN extends a private network across a public network, such as the internet, enabling a computer to send and receive data across shared or public networks in the same way as if it were directly connected to a private network, while still benefiting from the functionality, security, and management policies of the private network. This is achieved by establishing a virtual point-to-point connection through the use of dedicated connections, encryption, or a combination of the two.

Why would you want to bother setting up a VPN?

1. You can use it to securely connect to a remote network to access files, applications, etc. - such as your office network while you work from home or on-site. This can increase efficiency by giving you (or your employees) more opportunity to work with the ability to access files from anywhere.
2. To connect multiple networks together. Have you ever been in a store and had the clerk check inventory at another location? They probably used VPN for that, linking all their locations to a central network.
3. The security factor: a VPN encrypts your internet traffic so

people can't snoop and steal personal information (like passwords) via WiFi. Coffee and identity theft, anyone? You can set up a simple VPN to connect securely with other Windows computers or VPN servers using the pre-loaded VPN client on your Windows computer. Or, there are a number of reliable, free software programs that can do the job as well. If you're not a computer geek you might need a little guidance, so use a tutorial (easily found with a quick internet search) or read the instructions. You'll be connected and browsing securely in no time!

Setup and maintenance range from free to inexpensive, as you can do much of it yourself if you are reasonably tech-savvy, and you may already have all the equipment and software you need, offering another reason to go ahead and create a VPN.



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Let Us Now Praise Garbage Men Inside the Dangerous, High-Stakes World of Sanitation

by Tim Heffernan

“Some people play fantasy baseball,” says Robin Nagle. “I play fantasy sanitation.” Nagle, an anthropologist at New York University imagines idealized sanitation departments: the most reliable crews, the most capable garage supervisors.

For more than a decade, Nagle has studied New York City’s department of sanitation. For a while, she even joined it. For two years, she drove garbage trucks and street sweepers, emptied sidewalk trash cans, and salted winter streets. Nagle’s forthcoming book, *Picking Up*, is a personal and anthropological exploration of the department and its often overlooked service. “I still have my CDL” (commercial driver’s license), she says proudly.

On a bitter gray January morning, Nagle is sitting in a dark and cozy diner in Manhattan’s meatpacking district. The tables are full of tradesmen and cops warming up over coffee but no “san men” come in. It’s the middle of a shift. They’re outside working.

Central among Nagle’s themes is the paradox - she would call it the injustice - of sanitation work. It is absolutely vital to any modern society. It is also largely invisible.

In the 1890s, when New York's sanitation department really came into its own, the san man helped rid the city of its endemic vermin and disease. “His broom saved

more lives in the crowded tenements than a squad of doctors,” wrote the reformer Jacob Riis. Street sweepers got their own parade down Fifth Avenue. Today, the department’s disappearance from public view seems to be reflected by Manhattan 2, a yellow-brick sanitation garage a block from the diner, separated from the city by the West Side Highway and a row of rosebushes. It sits on a narrow peninsula jutting into the Hudson River. Like much of the rest of Manhattan’s West Side, the peninsula is built of landfill - that is, garbage.

The department runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, clearing the waste of the city’s eight million residents and plowing its 6,300 miles of streets and highways after

storms. Constantly exposed to disease, traffic, and heavy machinery, sanitation workers have the seventh highest rate of on-the-job deaths, higher than law enforcement or firefighting.



Continued on page 15

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Continued from page 14

Nagle discovered the job’s invisibility during a parade as she warned sandal-clad spectators to move out of the way of her broom’s coarse bristles. Nobody heard her. “It’s not that they were ignoring me,” she writes. “I was never part of their awareness.” That attitude goes along with the perception that the work is demeaning. Even san men themselves aren’t immune to the idea. Nagle recalls trying to convince a coworker that his work was important: “‘Aw, bullshXX,’ he’d say, dismissing me with a wave of his hand. Even after decades on the job, he still hasn’t told the neighbors what he does for a living. His wife is happier that way.”

Still, thousands of hopefuls apply for just a few hundred open positions at the department each year. Nagle saw one man struggling to pass a driving exam. In desperation he tried to slip the examiner \$100 and as a result had his license revoked. She describes what it cost him: “Our salaries, though meager ... would be relatively secure. We’d have benefits, a pension, and a union with real muscle. ... I would never know why the young man thought a bribe was a good idea, but I understood why his wife was crying.”

Sanitation has its own language. San men call Bronx 7 where the mass of garbage is legendary “House of Pain.” Treasure rescued from trash is “mongo.” Nagle jokes that to be true to lingo, Picking Up should have been called Getting It Up, the in-house term for garbage collection. But that “might have gotten it shelved in the wrong department.”

Winter is called “night plow.” The whole

department goes on 24-hour alert, with at least one crew in each of the 59 sanitation garages ready to clear the streets at any time. In the winter of 2010–11, when a Boxing Day blizzard was followed by months of additional snow, some workers were on the job for 41 days straight.

But this morning, there is no snow on the streets. Neither is there any garbage. The invisible workers have done their invisible work.

Tim Heffernan writes about heavy industry and the natural world. He lives in New York. This article appeared in the March/April 2013 issue of Pacific Standard magazine and can be found online at <http://www.psmag.com/magazines/march-april-2013/robin-nagle-picking-up-garbage-sanitation-53344/>. Reprinted with permission from the Miller-McCune Center for Research,Media and Public Policy.





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Puzzle

Efficient Thievery

Bridge over troubled waters? Not since the bridge was stolen.

Residents of a village in Turkey awoke one Monday morning to find that an enterprising group of thieves had stolen their bridge. Yes, the entire 22-ton, 25-meter long bridge.

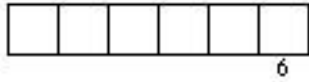
Police believe that the bridge was cut apart and loaded onto a truck by the thieves, to be sold for scrap metal. Its estimated worth was 20,000 Turkish lira (about \$9,900 in US currency).

Villagers were in disbelief, one quoted as saying that residents will now have to take off their shoes and socks to cross the creek to reach their orchards.

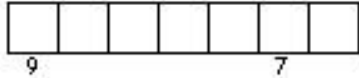
Believe it or not, this isn't the only documented case of a disappearing bridge. In 2011, a 50-foot long span was dismantled in Western Pennsylvania with the help of blowtorches and sold for scrap. In 2008, a 38-foot steel bridge disappeared in eastern Russia. Of these three, the Turkish bridge is the largest (25 meters equals approximately 82 feet). Those are some efficient thieves!



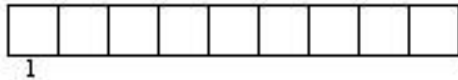
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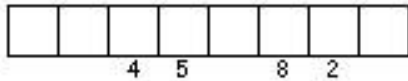
MOSEDAY



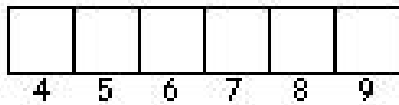
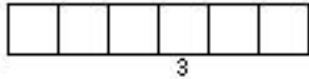
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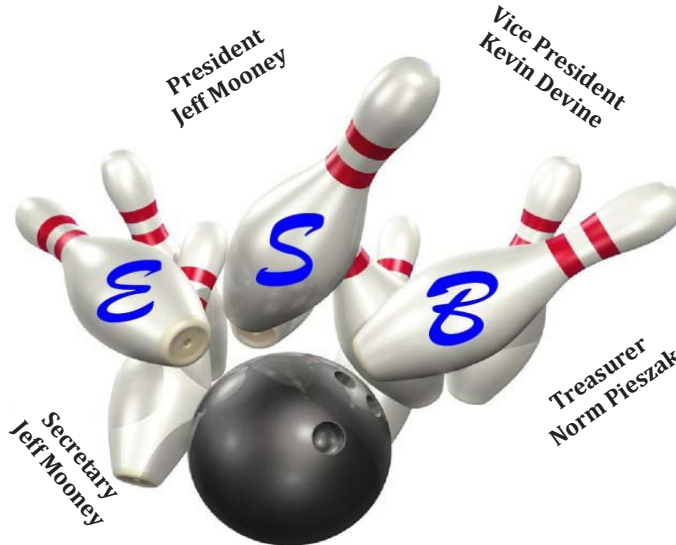
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- 1.) A 7-10 split can also be called:
 - A.) Bedposts
 - B.) Mule Ears
 - C.) Snake Eyes
 - D.) All of the Above

- 2.) What spare combination is also known as "Woolworth"?
 - A.) 7-10 Split
 - B.) 6-7-10
 - C.) 5
 - D.) 5-10



Handicap Series

John Grembowicz 843

Cross Alley w/Handicap

John Grembowicz 315

Kevin Devine 288

Team Standings Week 6

	Won	Lost
1. ARCHER IMAGING	41	13
2. TRANSMITTERS	34	20
3. DEAD LOADS	31	23
4. LOOSE CANNONS	29	25
5. SPLIT HAPPENS	28	26
6. K & K TREATS	27	27
7. OUTCASTS	27	27
8. PROTRACTORS	22	32
9. CAD/CAMS	20	34
10. PINHEADS	11	43

Scratch Game

John Grembowicz	290
Shaun Johnston	257
Tom Mann	246
Ed Grembowicz	236
Todd Huth	236
Kevin Devine	234
Julia Hay	192
Deb Restall	147
Stephany Dier	115

Scratch Series

John Grembowicz	768
Shaun Johnston	685
Tom Mann	666
Paul Morrow	626
Todd Huth	625
Brian Olkowski	606
Julia Hay	550
Deb Restall	407
Stephany Dier	296

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Online Help In Determining College Education Costs

By Tara Pfarner

Until a few years ago, the financial aid package you would receive from a particular school was a mystery until you got an acceptance letter. A new online app called College Abacus (collegeabacus.com) can help unravel the mystery by helping to determine the true cost of a college education based on the “sticker price” of a school less an estimated financial aid amount. Developed by a pair of Rhodes Scholars, the program utilizes net price calculators (NPC’s) built by US colleges as mandated by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

This free service allows users to compare financial aid packages across schools. Parents or students enter personal financial information in order to identify which schools are within their budgets. Not all post-secondary institutions are available yet, as College Abacus only includes schools whose NPC’s meet federal guidelines. Schools who feel they should be included but are not can request to be added. Of course, financial aid packages are estimates only, and must be applied for and verified by each individual school for each applicant.

Similar to the US Department of Education’s College Navigator (<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>), College Abacus asks more detailed questions about the family’s financial situation, but also delivers more detailed results. Its reports also offer details about what type of net price calculator a school offers, helpful for comparing apples to apples (or schools to schools). This becomes an issue when schools use the simpler calculator developed by the Department of Education rather than the ones developed by the College Board.



While only three schools can be entered at once, users can make unlimited three-school comparisons to find the information they are looking for. Most users report that it takes ten to fifteen minutes to copy financial information from a tax return into the system, but login can be achieved through Facebook, Twitter, or Google Plus and the data saved so that it does not have to be entered for each comparison.

Unfortunately, many schools are not yet included in the College Abacus database, including many Buffalo-area institutions such as UB and Canisius College. Both sites offer useful information such as graduation rates and student loan default rates for different schools and favorites lists.

Families shouldn’t wait until senior year to use this tool, though. With the average cost of a four-year education at a public university currently close to \$40,000, and projected to increase by 5% each year, the more time you have to save, the better. College Abacus and College Navigator can help families determine how much they need to save each year until their student is ready for college, potentially avoiding a last-minute scramble for funding. It can also help determine if a school is within your budget before your teen falls in love with it and allow time for alternates to be chosen. Though designed for first-time college students, transfer students can use the service for a limited number of participating schools. There are also resources available for teachers who want to incorporate the concept into their lesson plans.

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Technical Search

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MEETING MINUTES

- Attendees:** Officers: Closs, Plizga, Scofidio
Board Members: Bandriwsky, Masse, Mooney, Papaj, Wach
Members: Kolber
- Call to Order:** President Matt Plizga called the meeting to order at 6:08pm
- Minutes:** The Minutes of September were reviewed and approved. There was not a quorum in the October meeting.
- Committee Reports**
- Advertising:** No Report
- Audit:** No Report
- Bowling:** Jeff Mooney described the "Turkey Shoot" bowling event taking place on 11/20/13.
- Bylaws:** No Report
- Education:** PE class does better than FE class. How can we attract more people?
- Endowment:** No Report
- Entertainment:** Emil Bandriwsky suggested a number of activities, including parties, social events, and tours (e.g., a tour of the Catholic Health Center). Matthew Plizga suggested an FEA presentation.
- Fundraising:** Matthew Plizga suggested raising funds by selling t-shirts, polo shirts, coffee mugs, etc.
- Golf:** No Report
- Historian:** No Report
- Media:** Marco Scofidio reported that the website needs several updates and he will work on them in the coming month.
- Newsletter:** No Report
- Nominating:** No Report
- Scholarship:** No Report
- Scholarship Run:** No Report
- Sunshine:** John Beishline fell during a race and is in rehab. We hope his recovery is going well. Our prayers and condolences go out to Robin Closs, who lost her mother.
- Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.
- Next Meeting:** Monday, December 2, 2013 - Ukrainian Cultural Center, 562 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14204. There will be a short tour of the building from 5:00pm-6:00pm.

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and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?
For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne."

- Robert Burns



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