

### Holiday banquet raffle winners

Our annual holiday raffle was a success again this year! We had 14 items donated, including a Taste Of Mexico Basket, Spa Basket, Handblown Glass Ornament, Honey Basket, Decorations of Red Basket, Permanent Again (book), Free Night at Hilton Certificate, Barnes And Noble Gift Card, Peppermint Bark Candy Tin, Chocolate Lover's Basket, Northeast Ohio Goodies Basket, Wine Sampler Basket, Yours Truly Gift Card, and a Handcrafted Multi-Strand Glass Bead Necklace.

Thank you to all of the raffle item donors: Amy Vogt, Peggy Goddell, Lisa Mileusnich, Ginny Haas, Joann Rasmussen, Tricia Spayer, Mike Halkovich, Joan O'Connor, Nicole Derr, Genelle Pretty, Janean Voss, Doug Zachau, Kim Lindsey, and Jason Rogers.

Congratulations to all of our raffle item winners: Genelle Pretty, Joann Rasmussen, Jennifer Giordano, Brian Root, Ginny Haas, Kim Lindsey, Lynn Nickels, Tricia Spayer, Kathleen Ruggeri, and Carrie Cianciola.

Your generosity as donors and through raffle ticket purchases is much appreciated! Money raised from this year's raffle will be used to fund free or discounted admissions to upcoming NEO STC workshops.

### Competition award winners

Congratulations to the NEO STC competition award winners!

**Best of Show Award** (also received Distinguished Technical Communication)

- ◆ Kristen Kolenz, Dan Collins, and Kirsten Nagel of Case Western Reserve University for "The Official University Pocket Guide for Connecting and Staying Connected to the University Network."

### Distinguished Technical Communication Awards

- ◆ Peggy Goodell and Jennifer DeFrancesco of University Hospitals for "Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) eLearning Course."
- ◆ Jennifer Giordano, Stephanie Baumann, and Cheryl Abler of Rockwell Automation for "Micro800 Programmable Controllers Web Pages."

### Excellence Awards

- ◆ Jennifer Loudiana, Kristen Kolenz, Mike Koskey, and Kirsten Nagel of Case Western Reserve University for "Quick Guide for Using Blackboard Learn 9.1"

- ◆ Jonathan Vasko, Lynn Nickels, and Heike Caldwell of Rockwell Automation for "Translating a Rockwell Automation Publication."
- ◆ Genelle Pretty and Janean Voss of Parker Hannifin for "Universal Customer Master Online Help."
- ◆ Bob Young, Brian Root, Lisa Adair, and Tony Molica of Rockwell Automation for "Foundation Fieldbus Design Considerations Reference Manual."

### Merit Awards

- ◆ Nicole Derr, Randy Jasinski, Daniel Schrembeck, and Chris Stull of Virtual Hold Technology for "Virtual Hold EyeQueue User Guide."
- ◆ Nicole Derr, Randy Jasinski, Daniel Schrembeck, and Chris Stull of Virtual Hold Technology for "Platform Toolkit Developer's Guide."
- ◆ Dale Holub of Virtual Hold Technology for "VH Administration Guide."
- ◆ Maureen Krieski, Elanda Williams, Amy Vogt, and Lisa Kenney of University Hospitals for "UHCare Reference Guide, Part 2 for Nursing Orientation Training."
- ◆ Jennifer Loudiana, Mike Koskey, and Kirsten Nagel of Case Western Reserve University for "New to CWRU for graduate and professional students."
- ◆ Jill K. Lutman, Lisa Adair, and Mark Chaffee of Rockwell Automation for "Integrated Motion on the EtherNet/IP Network Reference Manual."
- ◆ Jill K. Lutman, Lisa Adair, and Frank Laswell of Rockwell Automation for "Integrated Motion on the EtherNet/IP Network Configuration and Startup User Manual."
- ◆ Lynn Nickels, Lisa Adair, Tony Sorbello, and Tony Molica of Rockwell Automation for "1715 Redundant I/O System User Manual."
- ◆ Joe Welinske of WritersUA for "Developing User Assistance for Mobile Apps."

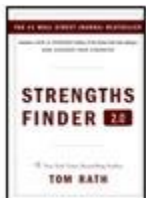
### Book review

*StrengthsFinder 2.0* by Tom Rath (2007)

*Reviewed by Jeanette Evans*

Gallup introduced the first version of its online assessment, StrengthsFinder, in 2001. This 2007 update of StrengthsFinder, as with the 2001 version, helps participants identify five top talents uncovered by the

test. I read the book and took the test as part of a professional retreat that I attended. The book and subsequent conversations with other attendees proved to be an interesting part of the retreat.



Is it wrong to review a book citing other reviews? I don't think so. So, Amazon listed an impressive 533 customer reviews when I looked in late October, indicating this is a popular book for sure. The average review is 4 stars out of 5, indicating

that many people like the book.

A central idea to the strength identification exercise is to evaluate natural talents so you can develop strengths instead of fixing shortcomings. To take the online test, you have to buy the book. The code to take the test appears in a packet inside the book.

The StrengthsFinder entry from wikipedia notes, "the Gallup group claims to have distilled the theory into practice by interviewing 1.7 million professionals from varying fields, have quantified the different Personal Themes of the subjects, and have come up with 34 distinct attributes." Achiever, communication, learner, maximizer, and positivity made my list.

### **eMerge registration begins in December**

The eMerge: New Directions in Blended Learning Conference 2012 is Northeast Ohio's first conference specifically aimed at bringing higher education faculty and professionals together to address challenges, discuss innovations, and share strategies for teaching and learning in blended learning.

The Office of eLearning & Innovation at Cuyahoga Community College will be hosting the event at Cuyahoga Community College's Westshore Campus located in Westlake, Ohio on March 14, 2012.

Conference registration is \$129 per attendee. Online registration begins on December 5, 2011. For more details please see <http://www.tri-c.edu/onlinelearning/eMerge/Pages/default.aspx>.

Many institutions are using Blended or Hybrid Learning as a way to meet enrollment demands, provide more flexible learning options to students, and explore online learning environments. As the need for flexibility increases exponentially, new solutions and effective practices must be created to accommodate diminishing resources and enhanced learning for this "merged" learning environment.

For additional details please contact Kevin Dranuski.

### **Talk of the town**

Sarah Burke celebrates her 10-year employment anniversary with Booz Allen Hamilton on May 13. In this economy, that's quite an accomplishment. As Sarah notes, "a bit of history: In 2002, I was hired as a technical writer/editor for a locally based team, but in 2008, I realigned with a Washington, DC-based team. I am now part of a practice that provides energy, transportation, and environment consulting services to federal government clients. Since that time, I have developed a close working relationship with National Park Service clients through the direct communications support that I provide. My current title is Managing Editor."

Barb Philbrick will be working at Keithley in a staff position. Let's wish Barb the best in her new endeavor.