

Beta Awards winners

Digital Don



Winner Jim van Oss

Title: Chief information officer
Company: Moog Inc.
Address: Plant 20, Jamison Road, East Aurora, N.Y. 14052
Phone: 687-4284
Fax: 687-4107
E-mail: jvanoss@moog.com
Web site: moog.com
Joined company: 1984
Years in industry: 10
Education: B.S. and M.S., mechanical engineering, University at Buffalo
First job: Stockboy at Ed Young's hardware, Williamsville
Favorite part of job: Variety of work and issues, people and Moog company culture
Motto: Do your best, be honest and everything else will take care of itself.
There are times when...: I wish I had nothing to do.
Unusual fact or talent most people don't know about me: I make balloon animals
Chose my profession because: I like working with people, computers and making a difference.

Finalists

■ Raj Mehta

Title: Director of management information systems
Company: City of Buffalo
Address: 1201 City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203
Phone: 851-4836
Fax: 851-5472
E-mail: rmehta@city-buffalo.org
Web site: city-buffalo.org
Joined company: 1977
Years in industry: 28
Education: M.A., University of New Delhi, India
First job: Technical writer for scientific equipment supplier
Favorite part of job: Public service
Motto: They will soon forget how fast you did it but they will always remember how well you did.
There are times when...: bugs in your software actually become special features
Unusual fact or talent most people don't know about me: I am a poet.
Chose my profession because: I am good at logic and I love solving problems.

■ Jason Myszkiewicz

Title: Web technology director
Company: Stand Advertising LLC
Address: 2351 N. Forest Road, Suite 102, Amherst, N.Y. 14068
Phone: 210-1065
Fax: 210-1069
E-mail: jasm@standad.com

Web site: standadvertising.com
Joined company: 2005
Years in industry: 9
Education: B.S., information technology, Rochester Institute of Technology; M.A., informatics, University at Buffalo
First job: Selling concessions at my local church bingo hall
Favorite part of job: Not knowing what challenges the next day will bring
Motto: "They always say time changes things but you actually have to change them yourself."
 Andy Warhol
There are times when...: I wish I had more time
Chose my profession because: I am comfortable with change and enjoy the constant learning required to be successful.

■ Daniel O'Dea

Title: CIO
Company: PremCom Corp.
Address: 85 Northpointe Parkway, Suite 1, Amherst, N.Y. 14228
Phone: 629-3000
Fax: 691-0795
E-mail: dodea@premcom.com
Web site: premcom.com
Joined company: 1996
Years in industry: 22
Education: B.A., SUNY Potsdam
First job: Pouring drafts for my uncles at 5 cents a glass plus tips
Favorite part of job: Getting to work with people and tech

Motto: The moment of choice is a moment of truth
There are times when...: I wonder who has it better – the Flintstones or the Jetsons???
Unusual fact or talent most people don't know about me: At one point in my life I had hair (on top of my head, that is)
Chose my profession because: It allows me to be a geek and a businessman

■ Mark Yellen

Title: President
Company: Appraisal.com
Address: 620 Main St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14202
Phone: 332-5950 ext. 103
Fax: 332-5951
E-mail: myellen@appraisal.com
Web site: appraisal.com
Joined company: 1997
Years in industry: 20
Education: B.A. and M.A., Loyola College
First job: Computer salesman at Amherst Computer Exchange
Favorite part of job: I get paid to do cool nerd stuff
Motto: What you give away comes back to you 100 times over.
There are times when...: I wish I didn't have to sleep every day.
Unusual fact or talent most people don't know about me: I have visited all 50 states in the last 10 years.
Chose my profession because: technology can change the world.