

# KELSO-KURRENTS

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A Powerful Past. A Brilliant Future.

Since 1908

Vol. 3 2007

## *Our Navy Nukes*

In the mid-nineties, Kelso-Burnett decided to take its testing services to the next level. After years of development and hard work, the testing division has taken off, having expanded to the point where it is now a stand-alone company. The company is formally known as Electrical Testing Technologies, Inc., but the team is affectionately referred to as the “Navy Nukes.”

In the early years, Kelso-Burnett tried to grow its testing group by sending electricians to study high-level testing. Progress was slow, so Kelso-Burnett searched for someone who already had heavy electrical experience. There was one standout: Scott Dude. His six years of experience with the U.S. Navy, working on a ship's nuclear reactor, made him uniquely equipped to handle the kind of challenges Kelso-Burnett had in mind.

As the first “Nuke,” Dude served as the foundation for the company. At the request of Dude, Kelso-Burnett acquired another “Nuke”: Brian Richmond, also a nuclear engineer from the U.S. Navy. Led by the “Nukes,” ETTI began to really succeed. Its strong reputation brought in new clients, and ETTI became phenomenally busy and profitable.

ETTI performs acceptance and maintenance testing and utilizes ground-penetrating radar (GPR). In particular, ETTI performs lots of work on data centers. ETTI is getting ready to start work on its largest project to date, the DuPont Fabros Data Center in Elk Grove. The data center will serve numerous heavyweights, including Microsoft. ETTI will test over 1,500 circuit breakers!

ETTI and the “Nukes” are doing extremely well—so well that they just hired another “Nuke,” Jeff Nelson. However, it took nearly a decade for them to become successful. It serves as a reminder that for a venture to thrive, you need the right resources, the right talent—and a lot of patience.

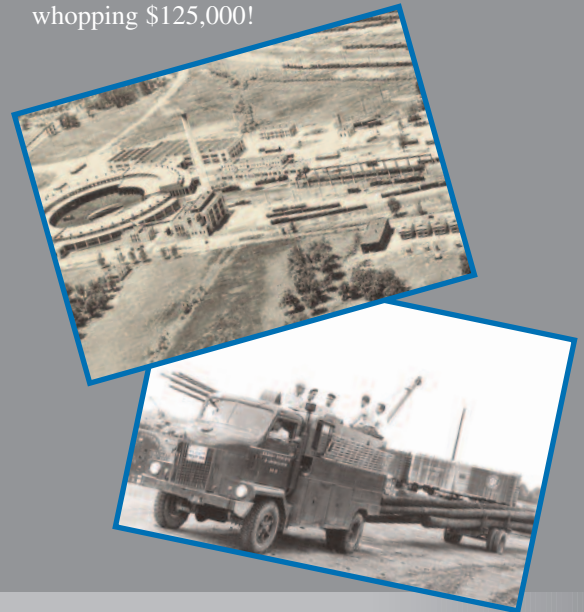
—Jim Kostek, Board Chairman & CEO



One of ETTI's recent projects was Central DuPage Hospital. It located utilities, conducted an infrared survey and performed a power quality analysis.

## *K-B Milestones*

Over 80 years ago, in 1926, K-B completed the electrification of the Illinois Central Railroad. The three-year project consisted of lighting and power for freight and passenger service and telephone and yard field lighting, which cost a whopping \$125,000!



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### *Argonne National Laboratory—Argonne, Illinois*

Opened in 1946 as the country's first national laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's largest and most valuable research centers. The 1,500-acre facility employs almost 3,000 people and performs cutting-edge research in a wide number of fields, including energy resources, environmental management and national security. In any given year, there are over 200 research projects taking place at the laboratory.

Argonne is especially well known for its highly advanced scientific facilities. For example, Argonne houses the Advanced Photon Source, a particle accelerator capable of pushing electrons to almost the speed of light. This fall, Argonne will add another sophisticated facility: a data center for the world's fastest supercomputer, the IBM Blue Gene/P.



The U.S. Dept. of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne will deploy the first Blue Gene/P supercomputer in the U.S. beginning later this year.



The Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory produces the most brilliant X-rays in the Western Hemisphere.

The Argonne supercomputer will be the first Blue Gene/P anywhere in the world and is by far the most advanced computer on the planet. 100,000 times more powerful than a home PC, it can process more operations in one second than a stack of laptop computers nearly 1.5 miles high. Scientists from around the world will be able to tap into the supercomputer and use it around the clock. Researchers have already been lining up for the chance to use the Blue Gene/P, hoping to apply it to studying global warming, nanotechnology, energy efficiency and diseases, among other issues.

The sophisticated technology at Argonne clearly required complex electrical construction. The Kelso-Burnett team, led by Project Manager Joe Truesdale and Project Foreman Tracy Olkiewicz, was brought in to perform over 2,400 man-hours of work. Kelso-Burnett installed a 750KUA UPS System, 800 AMP Panels and 2,000-AMP switchgear to power the supercomputer and surrounding data center.

Working at a government research facility brought unique challenges. For example, the Kelso-Burnett team had to adhere to strict safety guidelines beyond those required by OSHA. Additional certifications were necessary to comply with Argonne's policies. Security at the site was also extremely tight.

The data center is now nearly complete and is expected to be operational in the coming months. While you may not be able to get a close-up view of the excellent work of Kelso-Burnett, Clune Construction, EYP Engineering and others, you can schedule a tour of Argonne National Laboratory by calling (630) 252-5562. Be sure to keep your ears open for the exciting discoveries that are sure to come out of this brand-new data center.



## *Around Chicago*

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**This regular feature showcases unique entertainment and exciting things to do in the Chicago area.**

### **Chicagoween**

The 11th annual Halloween celebration hits Chicago's Daley Plaza October 12. This family-friendly, free-admission celebration features a haunted village, circus performances, storytelling and pumpkin decorating. While Chicagoween will be haunting visitors until October 31, the big Halloween Happening parade marches down State Street on October 20. Halloween Happening is a participatory children's costume parade, and children of all ages are invited to dress up and join in on the fun!

### **McCormick Tribune Ice Rink**

The popular ice rink at Millennium Park opens for the season on November 15. The rink hosts more than 100,000 skaters a year and is quickly becoming a Chicago wintertime tradition. Strap on a pair of skates and enjoy the great view of the Bean, Michigan Avenue and the Chicago skyline. Skating at the rink is free, and skates can be rented right at the park for a small fee.



## *KB Sparks*—Congratulations to all Kelso-Burnett team members!

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### **Mark Weir**

Mark recently accepted the position of Assistant Project Manager at the Loop office.



### **Matt Nemshick**

Matt, who completed an internship with Kelso-Burnett over the summer, was recently hired as a Sales and Marketing Assistant at the Loop Office.



### **Isabel De Ram**

Isabel, of the Rolling Meadows office, was recently hired as Operations Coordinator of the Rolling Meadows branch.



### **Rob Bujwit**

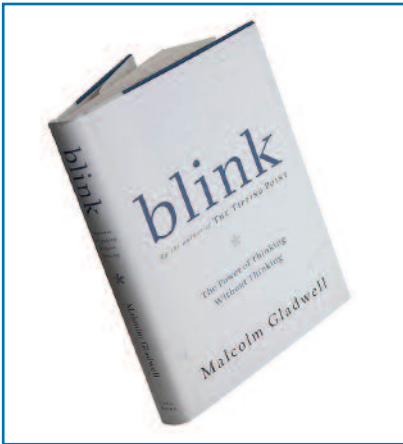
Rob, Assistant Project Manager of Advanced Technologies at the Loop office, recently acquired his RCDD certification from BICSI.

## *K-B's Reader Review*

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### **Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking**

By Malcolm Gladwell



Are you the type of person who has difficulty making split-second decisions, or do you often second-guess your intuition? Do you often wonder why your intuition is usually more accurate than your conscious, thought-out decisions? This is the type of book that helps you understand the power of the trained

mind while it attempts to make the average mind quicker and more articulate.

Each of us uses different methods of interpreting our instinct's meaning in multiple situations. Often, we find ourselves questioning our intuition, which causes it to become a conscious

thought. In this book, Malcolm Gladwell explains how the human brain plays tricks with intuitive decisions, which causes most people to fold under pressure.

Malcolm Gladwell explores the power of the trained mind to “think without thinking.” He describes this phenomenon as “thin slicing,” which is our ability to grasp important life aspects from our individual experience. I have never been so intrigued to learn about human thought processes, but Gladwell’s expertise covers areas of life that everyone can relate to.

As we continue to evolve as a fast-paced culture, it is essential to have the ability to use our intuitive reasoning for decision-making. Make sure to read this book if you wish to advance your critical thinking ability. I’m positive you will be as intrigued as I was when you read this book.

*By Mark Weir, Kelso-Burnett*



#### **Jeff Weir**

Jeff, Division Manager at the Rolling Meadows office, and his wife, Liz, welcomed their third child, Abigail Joann, on August.



#### **Luisa Arnone**

Luisa was recently hired into Accounts Receivable at the Lake County office.



#### **Jeff Mruk**

Jeff was recently hired as a Division Manager for Kelso-Burnett at the Lake County office.



#### **Sarah Kuehn**

Sarah, of the Rolling Meadows office, recently took on the position of Operations Coordinator of ETTI.

## 7 Questions About Evelyn Prothero



Each member of the Kelso-Burnett staff is a dedicated and hard-working individual. But what else do you know about us? Below are 7 *Questions* we asked Evelyn Prothero. Evelyn is an Office Manager and Field Coordinator at the Rockford office.

Evelyn was part of the ACRUX team that joined Kelso in January 2004. She is a true jack-of-all-trades. On any given day, she can be found answering phones, coordinating schedules, uploading test results or preparing invoices. Evelyn is also in charge of payroll and manages new hires and layoffs.

### *What one thing do you like most about your job?*

I love that every day is different yet kind of the same. I am so busy that the hours fly. That's the best!

### *How do you like to spend your free time lately?*

Hmm...what's free time? I have two stepchildren, two home-based businesses and am in the middle of remodeling my house. I do find time to play volleyball three to four nights a week.

### *If you could have dinner with any famous person, who would it be?*

Dr. Myron Wentz—scientist and great humanitarian. He is the founder of USANA Health Sciences, a leading manufacturer of vitamin and nutritional supplements.

### *If you could live anywhere on earth, where would it be?*

Colorado. They have it all...mountain biking, white-water rafting, hiking, skiing and, of course, incredible views. It's heaven on Earth. I haven't even tried to vacation anywhere else, because it is so beautiful there.

### *If you won the lottery, what would you do?*

First, I would volunteer to mentor unwed mothers. Second, I would open a restaurant that served entirely healthy, organic meals. It would be a place where your doctor would approve of every menu option, yet they would still taste good.

### *What three words would others use to describe you?*

Optimistic, conscientious, health-freak.

### *What is your favorite line from a movie?*

I'm stumped here. I rarely watch movies. (It's the "free time" thing.)

## Terry Butz Scholarship

Five years ago, Kelso-Burnett established the Terry Butz Scholarship fund. The program, which provides funding for higher education, continues to flourish. To date, we have given out 48 scholarships to sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of Kelso/Contech/ETTI employees.

We are happy to announce and congratulate the recipients of this year's scholarships. They are:

### Scholarship Recipient

Jason R. Sedlack  
Mary V. Sedlack  
Samantha Johnson  
Michael Lucente  
Ashley M. Strolis  
Chad Franke  
Phillip B. Rossberg  
Alex Jones  
Brittany Hoste  
Jessica M. Quam

### K-B Employee

Steven Sedlack  
Steven Sedlack  
Scott Johnson  
Tony Lucente  
Tom Wallace  
Curt Franke  
Phillip F. Rossberg  
Ralph Jones  
Nanette Hoste  
Curt Quam

Applicants each submitted a resume and a short essay that described their personal attitudes and values. Scholarships were for various amounts up to \$1,200.

We thank all those who applied and wish this year's Butz Scholars continued success in their studies.



## KELSO-BURNETT CO.

Chicago • Rolling Meadows  
Rockford • Zion

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**[www.kelso-burnett.com](http://www.kelso-burnett.com)**



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**Electrical Construction • Voice & Data Communication • Life Safety**

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**We are an employee-owned company that combines advanced technologies with superior workmanship to provide the highest quality design, construction and project management available in the electrical contracting industry.**

*Since 1908*

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The safety department at Kelso-Burnett offers 10- and 30-

hour OSHA classes. For more information or to schedule a class, contact Scott Johnson at (847) 483-3826 or Cathy Kay at (847) 483-3827.



### **NFPA 70E Training**

Kelso-Burnett continues to train employees and clients on the NFPA 70E requirements. Only an employee who is certified as an “Electrically Qualified Worker” may approach and work on live systems. He or she must also utilize an Energized Work Permit. Contact Cathy Kay at (847) 483-3827 if you would like to schedule a training session.