

The Rampage RAMPARTS

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Alumnus aids interfamily relationships with new website

By RANIA KHOURY

Attempting to develop closer ties within families, RHS alumnus Kevin Strauss created a website, the Family eJournal (FEJ), which focuses on helping high school audiences communicate with their families.

Research conducted by the Center for Disease Control effectively proved that teens were less likely to partake in negatively-influenced activities if they felt a closer connection to their parents. Using this concept as a starting point, Strauss decided to launch his own organization called Now or Never, which manages the FEJ. "The Family eJournal uses the internet to break through the barriers of face-to-face communication difficulties via written word," said Strauss.

Following his high school graduation in 1987, Strauss at-

Now or Never reinforces parent-teenager bonds

tended NC State and graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a Masters degree in Biomedical Engineering. His first job was at the Kirschner Medical Cooperation in Hunt Valley, MD where he created orthopedic hip-flexor implants. However, Strauss realized that being an engineer was not well suited for him.

Strauss now works for Amron Cooperation by aiding small, financially challenged businesses obtain money from the government for the manufacturing of beneficial products. This is when Strauss came up with the idea of the Family eJournal.

This electronic journal can be reached at the user-friendly website www.familyejournal.com and is quick and easy to access.

As soon as an adult user registers the family with the FEJ, each member can log in daily and read and respond to the Daily Experience Worksheet's four simple questions. These questions, developed by professional psychologists, social workers and counselors are expected to provide insight on the family and encourage self-analysis and expression. "FEJ should be great for families that are busy, divorced, involved in the military and even for those with children in college," said Strauss.

Once the FEJ gains momentum, Strauss looks forward to having the eJournal translated into several languages so that families across the world can use it. "Hopefully it will re-establish the truth and rapport in your family, so you can eventually begin to talk in person. This is the ultimate goal," he added.