Futuristic Printer Design Wins $10K

(NAPSA)—Imagine taking this paper in your hands, touching a spot on the page and, presto, the words disappear and a whole new page of copy appears on the same piece of paper. Touch it again, and it happens again. And again.

The theoretical technology is called the "Electronic Archive Printer," and it's a concept that won top honors for two Syracuse University students in the national "Design the Business Printer of the Future" contest, sponsored by Lexmark International, a leading developer of printing solutions.

Industrial design scholars Ryan Bednar, 22 and Nate Schaal, 23, were awarded $10,000 for the futuristic device that prints multiple layers of interactive copy on a single sheet of unique electronic paper.

They created a theoretical device that retains the look, feel and portability of traditional paper, yet can contain hundreds of pages of text. Electronic buttons printed on the page let users interact with the document. The pages can be stored in a unique notebook that protects the document and acts as a power source.

"With this design, you're actually printing on paper that changes," said Michael Miller, editor-in-chief of *PC Magazine* and one of the nine contest judges.

College students design futuristic printer that layers information on a single page.

"Over time, this technology could have an amazing impact in terms of making paper that's thin, light and changes all the time and that can store all sorts of information."

The second place entry, submitted by Bryant Griffin, of North Carolina State University, was awarded $7,500 for his design of a small, mobile device that can print, fax and scan documents for business users on the go.

Brigham Young University's Jacob Hall won $5,000 for a PDA attachment that emits a light beam that causes information to appear on the page when certain wavelengths of light energize it.

Ben Sharpe of the University of Washington and Veronique de Groot of the Savannah College of Art & Design earned honorable mentions. All winners received an E320 laser printer.