

The Users' Perspective



The HFES Potomac Chapter Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue 1
November 2005

Inside this Issue

President's Corner.....	1	Capital Science 2006.....	4
HFES 50th Anniversary.....	1	Involvement in APA Symposium.....	4
FBPCS and HFES	2	Next Meeting Information.....	4
Announcement & Call for Papers.....	3		

President's Corner by Tom Mayfield

The Chapter, like all voluntary organizations, exists only by the will of the members to participate. Over the years the Potomac Chapter had the largest membership in HFES, but because of the geography of the area (well mainly the major blockage that the metro area has become!) and the widespread situation of members, achieving large numbers at Chapter events has been difficult. Conflicting demands on time from work and family, as well as other professional activities, work against the traditional evening meeting and lecture, even when the topic and presenter are first rate. We have had meetings in Maryland, DC and Virginia over the years, but even moving the venue around does not encourage more than a core of members to attend.

I know there will be those of you saying "well what do we get for our subscription?" and while part of the answer to that has been great lectures, and an up-to-date web site with local job listings and news; the excellent newsletter that Dick Horst used to put out has not yet found a new permanent home or regular contributors. That comes to the other part of the answer: organizing events, newsletter articles and items for the web site all need enthusiastic volunteers to make them work. Some of these activities can be done from a computer at home and do not need personal attendance others, such as events, do need the commitment to get out and about. In 2007 we are the host Chapter for the HFES annual conference, the culmination of the Society's Golden Jubilee. In 2006 we need to make sure we have a solid membership and officer's foundation to make this as successful as in 2003. To kick-off the run up to the 51st Conference we will be holding a meeting for all members on December 6, 2005 (see details elsewhere) I heartily encourage you to attend (food and drink free!) and help shape the Chapter for the future.

HFES 50th Anniversary in 2006 and 2007 by Tom Mayfield

The Golden anniversary of the HFES will be launched at the Society's 50th annual meeting at the San Francisco Hilton on October 16-20, 2006. It will culminate in Baltimore at the Waterfront Marriott, on October 1-5, 2007. The Chapter will be responsible for many aspects of the 2007 Meeting, especially local activities, and we hope to build on the highly successful meeting held there in 2003. A Conference committee will be established in 2006 and, along with the local student chapters, will look for volunteers to assist with the events.

For those of you interested in the historical facts behind the HFES the Society site carries a full description. The basic details are that planning activity for the Society began in 1955 in Southern California by a joint committee representing the Aeromedical Engineering Association of Los Angeles and

the Human Engineering Society of San Diego. The committee represented the fields of psychology, physiology, engineering, and medicine. They were involved in human factors work in industry, universities, and government laboratories. The formal concept for and features of a human factors organization were developed by a founding committee in 1956 and approved at a joint meeting of the two local organizations. The committee members and plans served as the organizational framework for the founding of the Society, with its Constitutional Convention and First National Meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on September 25, 1957.

There were about 90 persons at the 1957 meeting. Three months later, the membership passed the 200 mark. The membership reached 500 in 1960 and exceeded 1000 in 1962. Between 1962 and 1969 the growth rate averaged about 5% per year and stabilized at around the 1600 mark by the early 1970's. During the 1980s membership doubled and it now stands at more than 4500. In 1992 the name was changed to the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

The FBPCS and HFES by Jerry Krueger

The Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences (FBPCS) is a coalition of university departments of psychology, schools of education, research centers, regional psychological associations, and science divisions of the American Psychological Association (APA). As the name implies, FBPCS represents the interests of scientists doing research in the areas of behavioral psychological and cognitive sciences. Efforts are focused on legislative advocacy and education and the communication of information to scientists. The FBPCS' motto is: "Advocate, Educate, & Communicate." The FBPCS headquarters in Washington, DC is housed in the APA building.

The Federation's goals are to:

- Advocate for legislation and policy to enhance training and research on behavioral, psychological, psychobiological and cognitive processes.
- Educate the public and the officers of private and public agencies regarding research on behavior and cognition.
- Provide sources of expertise and knowledge in the behavioral, psychological and cognitive sciences.
- Encourage the sound use of science in creation of public policy.
- Foster effective interaction between public and private funding agencies and the community of scientists and scientific societies.
- Facilitate information exchange among constituent societies and establish channels of communication with other scientific organizations.

HFES is about the fifth largest of nineteen professional organizations with membership in the FBPCS. Our HFES has been quite active in the Federation. Three successive presidents of HFES appointed our own Potomac Chapter's Jerry Krueger to be the HFES official representative to the FBPCS. Jerry has actively fulfilled that role in our behalf for almost three years.

On behalf of the FBPCS, the HFES nominated David Dinges, Ph.D., of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, for the Decade of Behavior Research Award. As David won the award, he was asked to give a Public Policy Briefing on his research, and he gave his dynamite talk entitled: "The Criticality of Sleep for health and Safety in a 24/7 World," in the Rayburn congressional office building on May 11, 2004. After briefing our Potomac Chapter, HFES President Wendy Rogers represented the Federation and behavioral sciences with her exhibit on technology and older adults at the 10th Annual Coalition for National Science Funding Exhibitions held June 22nd, 2004 on Capitol Hill.

HFES recently co-sponsored several formal education and science communication forums (Human Factors and Patient Safety Research on October 15, 2004; and Human Factors Research and Homeland Security on November 17th, 2005. Several former presidents of HFES, and other prominent leaders in our profession spoke at this most recent event.

You can read more about the FBPCS and its many advocacy, education and public policy initiatives on the web site at: <http://www.thefederationonline.org>

Since many of the FPBCS activities focal point around Washington, DC, Potomac Chapter members might want to be attentive to scheduled events. If you are interested, you can sign up for a weekly Friday afternoon electronic newsletter highlighting FPBCS activities. If you have questions about HFES and FBPCS, do not hesitate to inquire of Jerry Krueger at email: JerryKrueg@aol.com.

Announcement and Call for Papers by John Ruffner



Division 21

Annual Symposium on Applied Experimental Research "Building a Better World: Improving Quality of Life and Productivity" March 2-3, 2006, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia



Sponsored by the:
AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Division 21: Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology
Division 19: Military Psychology
&
HUMAN FACTORS AND ERGONOMICS SOCIETY
Potomac Chapter

The **theme** of the 2006 symposium is "Building a Better World: Improving Quality of Life and Productivity." Oral presentation and poster submissions in the area of Applied Experimental Psychology and Military Psychology are welcome, especially those supporting the theme. For reference, the titles of papers and posters presented at the 2005 symposium are at: <http://www.apa.org/divisions/div21/homepage.html> - Meetings Tab.

Single page submissions must contain the following **information**:

- Submission title (not to exceed 12 words)
- Author(s) and affiliation(s) with student authors clearly identified
- 250-word abstract concisely describing the presentation or poster
- Preferred format (oral presentation or poster)
- Primary point of contact information (email address, phone)

Send your submission via email or ground mail **by 1 January 2006** to either:

Dr. John Ruffner
Division 21 Co-Chair
DCS Corporation
Training & Human Factors Group
1330 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314
jruffner@dcscorp.com
571-227-6243

Dr. Mike Matthews
Division 19 Co-Chair
U.S. Military Academy
Dept. of Behavioral Sciences
and Leadership
West Point, NY 10996
Mike.Matthews@usma.edu
(845) 938-3696

Please note: Awards will be given for best undergraduate and graduate papers and posters. Registration and local arrangements information will be available at the Div 21 web site above. The Potomac Chapter will again sponsor a dinner meeting with a speaker on Thursday Evening 2 March. Acceptance notices will be sent by 31 January 2006. A preliminary agenda will be available at the Div 19, Div 21, and Potomac Chapter web sites in early February. Please address questions to John Ruffner or Mike Matthews.

Capital Science 2006 by Doug Griffith

Our Potomac Chapter has once again been invited by the Washington Academy of Sciences (WAS) to participate in their Biennial Pan-Affiliate Conference, "Capital Science 2006." The conference is scheduled for the weekend of March 25-26. The Keynote Speaker will be the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), Dr. Arden Bement. The conference will be held at the NSF facilities in Ballston.

Jerry Krueger, Dick Horst, John Ruffner, and I participated in the 2004 Conference. Twenty-five other WAS affiliates also participated. The conference provides the opportunity to learn of the wide variety of research being conducted throughout the DC area. It also provides the opportunity for us to showcase the field of Human Factors. I would encourage all in the Chapter to attend. The Potomac Chapter is scheduled for a two hour block from 9 to 11 AM on Saturday, March 25. If you are interested in participating in the Chapter's block, please contact either Jerry Krueger, GKrueger@thewexfordgroup.com, or me, Doug Griffith, douglas.griffith@comcast.net.

Chapter Involvement in APA Symposium by Tom Mayfield

The Potomac Chapter continues to enthusiastically associate itself as one of the three sponsors of the APA Div. 19 and 21 March Symposium (see item elsewhere). The Chapter contributes to the awards, and is responsible for the dinner and evening lecture on the first day. In 2005 we welcomed Dr Harold Wain from Walter Reed, whose talk on the rehabilitation of amputees was a timely reminder of the sacrifices that our military personnel have to endure. The sophistication of the new prosthetics is astounding, and the dedication of those carrying out the rehabilitation humbling. This is not a high profile activity; although Harold has done a great job in broadcasting the services provided, but one that is essential in times of war. On a wider note the synergy with robotics and the assists that might reduce high loading tasks makes one think that there is a broader future for these devices.

Next Meeting – December 6, 2005 by Tom Mayfield

The next meeting of the Potomac Chapter will be on December 6, 2005 at DCS, Alexandria at 7pm. Open to all members and food and drinks are provided. The officers would like to see more members participating in organizing events, contributing to the newsletter and taking on officer duties. We have a busy time ahead with the Baltimore conference in 2007 looming. Come along have your say, and join in.

For further information, please visit the HFESPOC website at: <http://users.erols.com/hfes poc/>

Officers for 2005

President

Tom Mayfield
Evans Incorporated
Phone: (703) 663-2480
email: tmayfield@evolvenow.us

Secretary

Kris Hager
BearingPoint
Phone: (703) 403-7090
email: kris.hager@gmail.com

Treasurer

Michael Eidelkind
Northrop Grumman
Phone: (703) 453-1331
email: michael.eidelkind@ngc.com

Directors at Large

Sue Evans
Evans Incorporated
Phone: (703) 663-2480
email: sevans@evolvenow.us

Dino Piccione
Federal Aviation Administration
Phone: (202) 493-5305
email: DINO.PICCIONE@FAA.GOV

Committees for 2005

Awards

Tyson Rose
IBM
Phone: (301) 240-3237
email: ctrose@us.ibm.com

Membership/Directory

Michael Eidelkind
Northrop Grumman
Phone: (703) 453-1331
email: michael.eidelkind@ngc.com

Newsletter

Kris Hager
BearingPoint
Phone: (703) 403-7090
email: kris.hager@gmail.com

Chapter Meeting Program Director

Donna Smith-Lopez
Sverdrup CESS
Phone: (703) 445-1616 x117
email: smithdl@jpmoip.org

WebMaster

Jack Laveson
Integrated Systems Research
Phone: (703) 642-3677
email: j.i.laveson@ieee.org