

The Users' Perspective



The HFES Potomac Chapter Newsletter

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Inside this Issue

President's Corner.....1	Capital Science 2006.....3
GMU Arch Lab Newsletter..... 1	5 th Annual Eastern Ergo Conference..... 5
Annual Symposium.....2	Journal of Aviation Psychology.....5
9th Annual Applied Ergo Conference.....2	

President's Corner by Tom Mayfield

Well I for one am pleased not to have had to snow-blow my driveway this year! Does anyone else find that most yard implements are too short for comfortable use by anyone over a 70th percentile? It still surprises me that, after over 50 years of professional advice on ergonomics/human factors, and for all the market place's ubiquitous use of the term "ergonomically designed", many consumer goods do not fit a user range that reflects as diverse a population as we have in the US. Reminds me of when the Japanese took on building the world's supertankers in the '70's, and ship operators in the west had complaints from crews that the bunks were too short! So where is this leading? Well two events taking place this year, one in March and one in October, give the human factors community the opportunity of spreading the message of the importance of considering the user to a wider audience. The Chapter is sponsoring a session at the Washington Academy of Sciences event in March (see page 3) and while the intent is to provide a topic of interest to HF practitioners and researchers we also hope to attract professionals from other disciplines as well. So please find time to attend an interesting and timely session, and encourage friends and colleagues to attend as well. Professional societies from across the sciences will also be presenting and there are many interesting topics. The other event occurs every year in October, but this year's "Ergonomics Month" is particularly exciting as we can proclaim the 50th Anniversary of the Society. So please have a think about how you might publicize the HFES and all our associated human sciences through schools, colleges, other professional organizations, newspapers, radio and cable. The Chapter and central office can supply ideas for flyers and other literature if needed. Finally, don't forget the Chapter is hosting the dinner at the APA Symposium on the evening of March 2nd. The speaker, Dr. Julius Persensky, will be presenting the benefit of his HF experience in the nuclear industry -- a topic which is now high on the energy agenda.

GMU Arch Lab Newsletter by Gregory Anderson

The George Mason University's Arch Lab is comprised of a group of faculty and students who work on both basic and applied research topics in the cognitive sciences. Basic research topics include visual perception, attention, cognitive control, and language processing. Applied topics include aviation, transportation, and human-computer interaction.

To obtain the Arch Lab 2006 newsletter and learn about Arch Lab related events, contact:

Gregory Anderson ganders5@gmu.edu

Arch Lab Website <http://archlab.gmu.edu>

Annual Symposium on Applied Experimental Research *by John Ruffner*

The 2006, Annual Symposium on Applied Experimental Research, co-sponsored by the American Psychological Association (APA) Division 21 (Applied Experimental Psychology), Division 19 (Military Psychology), & the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) Potomac Chapter will be held at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, March 2-3, 2006, in Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center. The theme of the symposium is "Building a Better World: Improving Quality of Life and Productivity." The symposium will run from noon on Thursday, March 2, to 5:00 PM on Friday, March 3. We will have six paper sessions and one poster session reporting on the latest research in Applied Experimental Psychology, Military Psychology, and Human Factors/Ergonomics. Dr. Richard Gilson, Professor, Psychology Department, University of Central Florida, will deliver the keynote speech entitled "Communicating Without Losses" on Thursday immediately following welcoming remarks by the symposium organizers. The Preliminary Program can be found at the HFES Potomac Chapter website <http://users.erols.com/hfespec>. Directions to GMU and information on local arrangements can be found at http://www.apa.org/divisions/div21/Meetings/annual_meeting.html.

Of particular interest to our chapter members, the HFES Potomac Chapter is sponsoring a cash bar cocktail hour Thursday evening from 6:00 – 7:00 PM, followed by the Chapter Dinner Meeting. Our guest speaker at the dinner meeting will be Dr. Julius Persensky, Senior Technical Advisor for Human Factors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. Dr. Persensky will be discussing Human Factors at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission: A Psychologist's View. Please note that dinner should be ordered by February 27rd, and will be "pay at the door." In addition, there will be a cash bar. The cost is \$20 for Symposium attendees, \$15 for members of HFES POC, and \$5 for students. Booking details are available from Kris Hager kris.hager@gmail.com.

So, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to find out about the latest developments in Applied Experimental Psychology, Military Psychology, and Human Factors. Speaking from past experience, the symposium is a great venue for networking, making professional and personal contacts, and socializing. We hope to see you there.

John W. Ruffner, PhD, CHFP
DCS Corporation
Potomac Chapter Past-President
Division 21 Symposium Technical Chair

9th Annual Applied Ergonomics Conference

Location: The Buena Vista Palace in Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), FL

Pre-conference workshops: March 6, 2006

Conference: March 7-9, 2006

Post-conference workshops: March 9, 2003

Benefit from the fastest-growing, highest quality conference in ergonomics! Come to the ergonomic event of the year developed by practitioners for practitioners. This conference will give you the tools and practical applications you need to solve your toughest ergonomic problems. Start getting excellent returns on your company's ergonomics investment. Almost 800 practitioners attended last year's conference. We expect at least 900 in 2006! Be a part of this important group!

Meeting highlights include:

- World-class keynote speakers
- Six educational tracks
- Master Ergonomist track
- Over 90 presentations
- 12 Benchmarking sessions
- The prestigious Ergo Cup Competition
- The largest exhibit program ever
- Planned networking events
- Plant tours
- Pre-and post-conference workshops
- Networking Reception and Lunches

For more information: <http://www.appliedergo.org/>

HFES POC Participates in Capital Science Weekend by Jerry Krueger

The Washington Academy of Sciences and its Affiliated Societies will hold our second biennial pan-Affiliate Conference: Capital Science, the weekend of March 25th-26th, 2006. The venue will be the conference facility in the National Science Foundation (NSF) building in Ballston, Virginia [across from the Ballston Metro Stop on the orange line].

The Capital Science Conference underlines the fact that the Washington, DC area is not only the political capital of the country, but in many respects, the nation's intellectual capital as well -- with several major universities and numerous government laboratories that are homes of an astonishing number of Nobel laureates.

Members of our Potomac Chapter HFES are encouraged to attend and participate. Come join us Saturday morning March 25th to hear three of our own stars in Human Factors: Colin Mackenzie, M.D., Marilyn Sue Bogner, Ph.D., and Gerald P. Krueger, Ph.D., CPE address:

"Medical Errors: Reducing Risk and Enhancing Safety?"

Attend the whole conference. Join with our numerous colleagues in more than 20 of the Washington Academy's Affiliate Societies, as they present symposia and paper sessions in over a dozen topical arenas. Presentations will range from: industrial engineering, science and technology, physics, chemical engineering, acoustical and optical science, meteorology, experimental biology and medicine, plant biology, botany, to world futures and more.

Conference Highlights include:

- Saturday lunch meeting features Francis S. Collins, Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH.
- Saturday Plenary Sessions This Planet's Moon - The Wrap Up by members of the Philosophical Society.
- Saturday Plenary Sessions The Effect of Patent Reform Legislation on Scientific Research presented by the Science and Intellectual Property in the Public Interest Program at AAAS. This presentation is followed by a reception.
- Saturday evening dinner banquet meeting features a keynote address by NSF Director Arden Bement.
- Sunday lunch meeting features a talk by Dr. John C. Mather, a Senior Astrophysicist in the Infrared Astrophysics Branch at NASA Goodard.

Saturday, March 25th, 9 AM till noon

Potomac Chapter Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) presents:

"Medical Errors: Reducing Risk and Enhancing Safety?"

Featuring three presentations by three HFES members:

"Videos of Emergency Care Show Challenges for Patient Safety"

By:

Colin F. Mackenzie, M.D.
National Study Center for Trauma & EMS
University of Maryland
Baltimore, Maryland

AND

"It's Not Who in 98,000 Medical Error Deaths, It's What!"

By:

Marilyn Sue Bogner, Ph.D.
Institute for the Study of Human Error, LLC
Bethesda, Maryland

AND

"Fatigue, Drowsy Decision-Making and Medical Error: Issues of Quality Health Care"

By:

Gerald P. Krueger, Ph.D., CPE
Krueger Ergonomics Consultants
Alexandria, Virginia

For information about the Washington Academy of Sciences, and more information, registration details, for the March 25th-26 Capital Science 2006 Conference, and approximately on March 6th to view the finalized agenda, consult the Academies' web site:

<http://www.washacadsci.org/>

Early registration for the conference the early registration fee until Feb. 28th is \$50. for Potomac Chapter HFES members. The fee raises to \$75 March 1st until walk-in registration the day of the Conference. Meal prices are listed on the Web site.

For questions or additional information about the Capital Science 2006 Conference, contact Jerry Krueger at email: JerryKrueg@aol.com or cell phone: (703) 850-6397, or Doug Griffith at email: douglas.griffith@comcast.net



June 21-23, 2006
Boston Marriott Copley Place
www.ErgoExpo.com

The goal of the **Eastern Ergonomics Conference and Exposition** is to provide relevant, applicable information and skills to help ergonomics and safety professionals improve productivity, product quality and profitability while reducing workplace related injuries. Now in its fourth year, the EECE has grown to become the most important gathering of ergonomics professionals in the eastern United States.

For more information about the EECE, including a look at last year's Conference program, visit www.ErgoExpo.com.

The International Journal of Aviation Psychology

CALL FOR PAPERS Special Issue on Air Traffic Control Human Factors

More than a decade has passed since the last special issue on air traffic control (ATC) (Benel, 1993). In that time there have been many changes in the air traffic environment, including advances in the areas of technology, procedures and regulations, training and human resources. Many of these advances have benefited from applied psychological research focused on attaining a better understanding of the interaction between the many elements in the ATC environment. Some of the questions asked by Benel remain relevant as the field of applied aviation psychology moves forward. For example, "How will each new technology and procedure integrate within the ATC system while insuring safe operations"? The new era of air traffic control proposes increased use of automation, the movement from paper to digital processes, a net-centric sharing of information, and increased collaboration between air traffic service providers, pilots, and airline dispatchers.

Suggested papers topics include (but are not limited to):

- Application of psychological principles to ATC design
- Research and development of ATC issues that examine the interaction of system users and technology
- Effects of new procedures on ATC efficiency
- Collaboration and information sharing between ATC and other aviation stakeholders
- Testing of advanced ATC decision-support systems
- Innovative methods for the collection and analysis of applied ATC research

Prepare manuscripts according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.). Manuscripts should not exceed 25 pages in length. Type all components of the manuscript double-spaced, including title page, abstract, text, quotes, acknowledgments, references, appendices, tables, figure captions, and footnotes. The abstract should be no more than 100 words in length. A stamped, self-addressed postcard should be included for acknowledgment that a manuscript has been received. Manuscripts will not be returned.

The closing date for submissions is 1 August 2006. Please contact Jim Hitt at hitt_james@bah.com or Mike McAnulty at mike.mcanulty@faa.gov with any queries, or to submit papers.

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