

The Users' Perspective



The HFES Potomac Chapter Newsletter

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HFES Meetings 2006-2007 by Derek Schultz

December 5, 2006 (Tuesday)

Dr. Ben Bederson

University of Maryland

Past Director, Human-Computer Interaction Lab (HCIL)

“A Library for the World’s Children: The International Children’s Digital Library”

January 2007 (Date to be determined—check the Potomac Chapter website as details firm up)

Dr. Deborah Mayhew

Deborah J. Mayhew & Associates

Author, *The Usability Engineering Lifecycle*; co-editor, *Cost-Justifying Usability*

“Cost-Justifying Usability in the Product Development Lifecycle” (working title)

February 21, 2007 (Wednesday)

Dr. Sharon Laskowski

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

“Usability Issues in Voting: How Human Factors Can Help America Vote” (working title)

March 1–2, 2007 (Thursday & Friday)

Annual Joint Symposium on Engineering Psychology

Co-hosted with APA Divisions 19 & 21

To be held at George Mason University (see Potomac Chapter website for details)

April 2007 (Date to be determined—check the Potomac Chapter website as details firm up)

Dr. Jennifer J. Preece

University of Maryland

Author, *Online Communities: Designing Usability, Supporting Sociability*; co-author, *Interaction Design: Beyond Human-Computer Interaction*

“Social Communication Online and Online Communities” (working title)

Suggestions for speakers are always welcome...

Do you know someone doing interesting work? Are you? Tell us about it!

Pass your suggestions to Derek Schultz, Program Chair (mediadesign@att.net; 301-656-1897)

Ben Bederson at HFES Potomac Chapter Meeting on December 5

Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Speaker: Dr. Ben Bederson, University of Maryland & Human-Computer Interaction Lab

Topic: "A Library for the World's Children"

Where: Positano

4940 Fairmont Ave. (three blocks from the Bethesda Metro Station on the Red Line)
Bethesda MD 20814 (parking garages are across the street and also around the corner)
301-654-1717

Schedule:

6:00 pm—networking with Dr. Bederson and others

6:30—dinner: order off the menu; each person pays their own.

(for menu info, go to <http://www.epositano.com/dinnermenu.html>)

7:30—coffee/tea and dessert, *courtesy of the Potomac Chapter.*

(If you prefer, you can skip dinner and come at 7:30 pm for complimentary coffee/tea and dessert!)

7:40—Dr. Bederson's talk on the International Children's Digital Library

8:30—Questions/Discussion and Wrap-Up

RSVP:

Please notify Derek Schultz (mediadesign@att.net; 301-656-1897) **by Monday 12/4/06...**

=> **if you plan to attend**, and

=> whether you'll be there for **dinner** or **coffee/dessert only**.

Abstract: The International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) is a freely available online library of children's books from around the world (at www.childrenslibrary.org). This talk will describe the library's vision and its special interface that focuses on children's needs and abilities - in the way they think about searching and reading. We will show the library, discuss its design process, and report on its use. In addition, we will discuss a new collaboration with the Government of Mongolia to deploy a Mongolian version of the library for rural education, and our experience working there.

Speaker Bio: Benjamin B. Bederson is an Associate Professor of Computer Science and the Human-Computer Interaction Lab at the Institute for Advanced Computer Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. His work is on mobile device interfaces, information visualization, interaction strategies, digital libraries, and accessibility issues such as voting system usability.

Dr. Ben Shneiderman speaks on Creativity Support Tools: A Grand Challenge

On October 18, roughly two dozen chapter members and others interested in usability issues gathered in Bethesda to hear Dr. Ben Shneiderman (University of Maryland, Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory) talk about Creativity Support Tools: A Grand Challenge.

In brief, Ben urged that creativity support tools is a research topic with high risk but potentially very high payoff. The goal is to develop improved software and user interfaces that empower diverse users in the sciences and arts to be more productive and more innovative. Potential users include a combination of software and other engineers, diverse scientists, product designers, graphic designers, and architects, as well as writers, poets, musicians, new media artists, and many others.

Enhanced interfaces could enable more effective searching of intellectual resources, improved collaboration among teams, and more rapid discovery processes. These advanced interfaces should also provide potent support in goal setting, speedier exploration of alternatives, improved understanding through visualization, and better dissemination of results. For creative endeavors that require composition of novel artifacts (computer programs, engineering diagrams, symphonies, animations, artwork), enhanced interfaces could facilitate rapid exploration of alternatives, prevent unproductive choices, and enable easy backtracking.

Two key human factors issues are (1) Formulation of guidelines for design of creativity support tools (2) Novel research methods to assess creativity support tools. These issues will be the core of the June 2007 Conference on Creativity and Cognition in Washington, DC (<http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/CC2007>).

- You can find his slides on the HCIL Presentations page: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/pubs/presentations/> Creativity Support Tools: A Grand Challenge (October 2006)
- Other relevant papers can be found at: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/pubs/tech-reports.shtml>
- The Human Computer Interaction Laboratory (HCIL) home page is at: <http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/>

Upcoming HFES POC Meeting

- POC December Meeting -- Ben Bederson, University of Maryland & Human-Computer Interaction Lab, will be the dinner speaker on Tuesday evening December 5th. His topic is A Library for the World's Children. For details go to <http://www.erols.com/hfespoc/nextmtg.htm>. RSVP by end of day Monday, December 4th.
- Upcoming POC Chapter Meetings -- A list of upcoming meeting is now available at <http://www.erols.com/hfespoc/meetings.htm>.

ARCH Lab (George Mason University) Joint Symposium

On Friday, November 17th, the ARCH Lab will host a joint symposium with Old Dominion University and Virginia Tech featuring:

- Carryl Baldwin from Old Dominion University
- Tonya Smith-Jackson from Virginia Tech
- Raja Parasuraman from George Mason University

In addition to a lab tour and some other events, food will be provided all day.

Please contact the ARCH lab at <http://www.hfac.gmu.edu/> for further details.

For more recent job postings, visit the HFES POC Job Openings at <http://users.erols.com/hfespoc/jobopen.htm>

To advertise your position on this HFES POC site and in the HFES POC newsletter, contact:
Jack Laveson
Phone: (703) 642-3677
j.i.laveson@ieee.org

FACULTY POSITION
DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION ENGINEERING
Assistant, Associate or Full Professor

Applications are being accepted for a tenure track faculty position at all ranks. Candidates must possess a PhD in Systems Engineering or related engineering fields. The successful candidate will be expected to develop a quality research program in Systems Engineering in the area(s) of Computational Statistics and Simulation, Human Factors, Optimization and Control, Risk and Decision Analysis and Systems Integration and to teach and advise graduate and undergraduate students.

The Systems and Information Engineering Department is consistently rated among the top Systems Engineering programs in the country. It is a close-knit group of faculty dedicated to teaching, research and student development. Department faculty participates in leading-edge research programs funded by a variety of public and private agencies and are leaders in systems engineering professional societies. Visit our website at www.sys.virginia.edu for information about the department, the faculty, and current research efforts. For information about the University of Virginia please see www.virginia.edu.

Please send a complete vita, publications list, research summary, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of four references to Jill Bratton, Department of Systems and Information Engineering, P.O. Box 400747, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4747 or please e-mail jrb3ej@virginia.edu The position will remain open until filled.

The Department of Systems and Information Engineering is dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse and pluralistic faculty committed to teaching and working in a multicultural environment, and strongly encourages applications from minorities and women.

The University of Virginia is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Entry-Level Information Architect / Usability Specialist
ICF International
Fairfax, VA

ICF International is deeply committed to delivering results in support of our client's mission and business. We stand out by delivering IT solutions that leverage our deep domain expertise in homeland security, transportation, environment, energy, social services, and defense combined with our proven user-centered design processes throughout all phases of the project. By ensuring that client staff, domain experts, and end-users stay engaged across the lifecycle, our user-centered methodology leads to usable, citizen-centric Websites and software solutions that help deliver business results better, faster, cheaper, as well as enabling users to accomplish tasks easily, efficiently, and with high satisfaction.

Task to be Performed:

- Support Sr. Information Architect collecting user and system requirements and convert them into simple, intuitive designs for web-based systems.
- Develop wireframes, mockups, and prototypes for websites and web-based applications.
- Organize information and functionality into a logical presentation layer.
- Design attractive, intuitive, accessible websites.
- Plan user research activities such as participant recruiting and scheduling, materials production, lab preparation, and other logistics.
- Prepare user research plans and test protocols for web sites and web-based applications.
- Conduct user-centered research activities for websites and web-based applications.

Required Skills:

- Bachelor's Degree in Human Factors, Human Computer Interaction, Information Science, Technical Communication, Library Science, Graphic Design or related program. (Master's Preferred)
- Solid understanding of various user-centered design research methods.
- Design experience with Federal government web sites and section 508 preferred.
- Experience with HTML (required) and/or other languages, Adobe products, and MS Visio.
- Possess strong communication and interpersonal skills, including writing skills.
- If interested please send cover letter and resume to Brian Verhoeven at bverhoeven@icfi.com.

HFES POC Notices

- The final event of the HFES 50th Anniversary will be the Annual Conference in 2007, which will be in Baltimore in October. The Chapter is looking for volunteers and suggestions for technical visits. For more details, please contact Michael Eidelkind at email: michael.eidelkind@ngc.com
- Potomac Chapter elections are coming soon. Please watch your mailboxes for election ballots, and return promptly.
- The Midyear Symposium is organized by HFES Potomac Chapter, APA Div. 21: Applied Experimental & Engineering Psychology and Div. 19: Military Psychology. If you have ideas for sample topics that you would like to see represented at the Symposium, email the program coordinator, Ericka Rovira, at Ericka.Rovira@usma.edu. Some sample topics include: Training, Communications, Social Network Analysis, Robotics, Medical HF, Retention & Recruitment, and Combat Related PTSD. Stay tuned for a Call for Papers.

Officers for 2005-2006

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