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## HFES 50th Anniversary Event Planning Begins

*By Douglas H. Harris, HFES 50th Anniversary Task Force Chair*

Individual members, present and past officers, chapters, and technical groups have offered many ideas for recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. (The 50th anniversary encompasses the 50th and 51st Annual Meetings and the year in between.) Ideas that had materialized into projects were presented and discussed during an open forum at the annual meeting in Orlando; additional ideas were also introduced and discussed at that time. So, at this point, we have some projects that are under way and other potential projects that need interested implementers. The objective of this article is to let you all know how we stand.

Because this issue of the *HFES Bulletin* provides the preliminary call for papers for the 50th Annual Meeting, it seems appropriate to address, at the outset, a frequently mentioned idea for the technical program: presentations that address each of several technical areas from the perspective of history, current state of knowledge, and future prospects. Such special 50th anniversary presentations might take any of the several forms normally employed, such as lectures, panels, symposia, and/or invited addresses. The action required now is to submit a proposal in accordance with the general instructions and guidelines provided by the Call for Papers (to be posted at [hfes.org](http://hfes.org) on January 6, 2006), and to identify it as a 50th anniversary state-of-the-Society presentation.

Among the projects being implemented by the Central Office staff, three are interrelated: promotion of a celebratory opening reception at the 50th Annual Meeting, design of a logo and theme for the meeting, and development of a media production that will have multiple uses, including showings at the opening reception. It is anticipated that large-scale electronic displays will provide the continuous presentation of DVD films developed from archival materials such as photographs, oral histories, success stories, and other associated film clips. Festive decorations at the reception will emphasize the 50th anniversary logo and theme that have already been developed and were unveiled at the Orlando meeting.

A fourth project undertaken by Central Office staff in conjunction with Historian Peter Hancock is that of preparing a timeline chart showing significant events in the history of the Society and the profession. The timeline would be a permanent part of the HFES Web site and updated as new information about past mile-

stones comes to light and as milestones are added in the future. One model for such a chart is the timeline residing on the BBN company Web site ([bbn.com](http://bbn.com)). A further suggestion from the open forum was to develop three parallel timelines: one for the Society, one for the profession, and one for technical groups.

Historian Peter Hancock is also assembling members' accounts of their early recollections of the Society, in anticipation of having a compilation available for members at the 50th Annual Meeting in San Francisco. (See "Contributions to HFES History" on page 3

of the May 2005 issue, <http://www.hfes.org/Web/BulletinPdf/bulletin0505.pdf>.) His instructions were to provide accounts of one to two pages, simple and concise enough to be edited and generated as a collection, and also to serve as an informational database for present and future historians. Hancock provided some ideas for potential contributions – the how and why of getting into the field, academic and professional influences, pivotal meetings and/or inspirational publications – and strongly encouraged humorous stories.

The HFES University of Central Florida Student Chapter is planning to follow up its remarkable and highly successful "Famous Faces of Human Factors" 2006 calendar with a calendar (or weekly planner) that will help commemorate the 50th anniversary. As with the 2006 calendar, the university will provide the means, the students will provide the labor, and the product will be available for purchase at the 50th Annual Meeting, with proceeds going to fund graduate and undergraduate student research proposals at the university.

The Society's Awards Committee is considering several ideas for the 50th anniversary that involve presentations and/or publications featuring recipients of past HFES awards. These ideas include panel or paper sessions by multiple award winners willing and able to provide historical perspectives, a poster-type presentation featuring past award winners, and a special publication featuring HFES "major contributors" and commemorating the accomplishments of honored members of the Society such as Distinguished Service Awardees.

The Summer 2006 issue of *Ergonomics in Design* is scheduled to have a key column on HFES history and the 50th anniversary.

Additional ideas have one or more parents; however, although some have prospects (noted below), many remain homeless. To



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## HFES 50th Anniversary...

(continued from page 1)

materialize into a contribution, the idea needs to be adopted by someone or a group who will move ahead with its implementation. The following ideas are listed in no particular order.

- Solicit the interest of television and radio program producers (History Channel, Discovery Channel, National Public Radio, Public Broadcasting System, NOVA) in developing and presenting productions addressing the profession at its 50th anniversary. (Donna Smith-Lopez has indicated interest in this project.) Consider obtaining funding from science foundations for this purpose. Also, promote coverage of the 50th Annual Meeting among the local media in San Francisco, including interviews and presentations of materials on a local morning television program.
- Provide a National Public Radio-type of "story corps" booth at the 50th Annual Meeting where an interviewer and videographer record comments of HFES notables about the Society and the profession.
- Enhance local publicity and outreach by soliciting and recognizing outstanding human factors designs from local firms – a 50th Anniversary Human Factors Design Competition. Prizes would be awarded and award-winning designs and their development featured during presentations at a special session at the annual meeting. Publicity packages would be prepared and distributed for this and other special activities.
- Enhance local publicity and outreach by conducting an ergonomic evaluation of the San Francisco mayor's office and exploit the resulting publicity associated with the process and the results. (Marvin Dainoff expressed an interest in this project.) In a related project, conduct an ergonomic evaluation of a motion movie set; incorporate a pre- and post-evaluation and present the results via time-lapse photography.
- Tie in National Ergonomics Month (October) to annual meeting publicity and outreach activities. Link this to other related professional organizations by providing a venue for them to demonstrate the application of human factors principles in their specialty. (Haydee Cuevas is the NEM chair.)
- Arrange with Habitat for Humanity to build a house on the day prior to the 50th Annual Meeting in San Francisco; illustrate and demonstrate the use of safe house-building techniques and the use of ergonomically designed construction tools. (Persons expressing an interest and/or past experience in such a project

include Mark Scerbo, Sherri Rehfeld, Haydee Cuevas, and HFES meeting planner Steve Marlin.)

- Display a map of the world identifying the countries that contain HFES members.
- Provide a special session at the annual meeting on the University of Michigan's Human Factors Short Course, a course that has been conducted annually for almost as long as HFES has been in existence. (The course is being conducted for the 47th time in the summer of 2006. Richard Pew suggested and has expressed an interest in this project.)
- Have a time capsule available in which participants may place items related to the Society or the profession at this point in time. Additionally, provide a poster board for participants to post photographs or items related to special events or past meetings.
- Prepare a commemorative publication in conjunction with a commercial publisher addressing the first 50 years of the human factors and ergonomics profession. (Waldemar Karwowski is preparing a proposal.)

The many projects now under way and the range of ideas proposed suggest a growing enthusiasm for making the 50th anniversary a really special time and a milestone in the history of the Society. The 50th Anniversary Task Force is an instrument of the Executive Council, existing to stimulate, coordinate, and support these efforts. We welcome additional ideas relative to projects for the anniversary year. Please send them to dharris@anacapsiences.com. Ultimately, the various celebratory projects will come to life through the standing structure of the Society, namely the Technical Program Committee, officers, Central Office staff, chapters, and technical groups. ☒

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Preliminary Call for Proposals 50th Annual Meeting, October 16–20, 2006

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting is the primary gathering of researchers and practitioners in the field of human factors/ergonomics and related areas. The 50th Annual Meeting will be a special celebration of our historical foundations and a look at the future of our profession. The Technical Program Committee encourages creative proposals for program materials of all kinds. (See the article by Douglas Harris on page 1 in this issue.) The meeting will take place at the San Francisco Hilton Hotel in San Francisco, California.

New formats for presenting human factors/ergonomics (HF/E) efforts are strongly encouraged. Participants are invited to submit proposals including case studies, debates, demonstrations, competitive product designs, new methodologies, on-site experiments, and posters involving both fixed and dynamic information presentation.

#### Key Dates

The fully detailed Call for Proposals will be available at the HFES Web site on January 6, 2006 (<http://www.hfes.org/Web/HFESMeetings/06annualmeeting.html>). The deadline for sub-



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mitting any type of proposal is March 1. Acceptance/rejection letters will be sent in late April. Proceedings papers will be due in late June.

### Submitting Proposals

Detailed instructions for submitting materials will be included in the online Call for Proposals. All submissions will be uploaded to a Web site to be listed in the instructions. **You must have an e-mail address** to submit a proposal because all correspondence regarding your submission will be done via e-mail.

Papers that have been published previously or presented at another professional meeting may not be submitted. All research and analyses described in your proposal must be complete at the time the proposal is submitted. The sole exception to this policy is for student work submitted for consideration in the Student Forum track, in which case the proposer may report on work in progress. Note that for all accepted proposals, one of the authors must attend the meeting to present the work. All presenters are required to pay the meeting registration fee.

### Changes for 2006

As noted earlier, the 50th Annual Meeting will feature special events and technical sessions acknowledging the 50th anniversary of HFES. In anticipation of increased submissions and attendance, the Technical Program Committee has planned some changes to the schedule designed to accommodate this expected increase. For example, posters will be on display for one 90-minute session, as opposed to two 90-minute sessions. Other changes will be announced in the *HFES Bulletin* and in the Call for Proposals.

Special "state of the Society" submissions are being encouraged by the 50th Anniversary Task Force to encourage presentations on the history, current state, and future in any of the technical groups. When you submit your proposal, you will be able to indicate if it should be considered as part of this "state of the Society" overview.

### Proceedings Publication and HFES Copyright

Authors of accepted proposals will be invited to submit a paper for publication in the proceedings CD-ROM. Paper length and other requirements will be described in an instruction kit, which will be posted at the HFES Web site in early May.

HFES requires a transfer of copyright unless the work was performed by U.S. government employees or by employees of non-U.S. government agencies. However, the author may reuse the material for any purpose without restriction or fee. If you have questions about the HFES copyright transfer policy, please contact the HFES Communications Department (310/394-1811, lois@hfes.org).

### Nonmembers Are Welcome to Submit Proposals

Participation in the 50th Annual Meeting is open to both members and nonmembers. If you know of nonmembers who might be interested in submitting a proposal, please send their contact information to the Communications Department (lois@hfes.org, 310/394-1811), and we will invite them to submit their work.

## E&T Training Workshop Proposals for 2006

*By Patricia R. DeLucia, Education and Training Committee Chair*

The Education and Training Committee initiated a new series of special workshops at the 49th Annual Meeting in Orlando. The purpose of the series is to provide high-quality training opportunities focused on the primary education and training needs identified by HFES members in the committee's 2003 survey.

On Monday, September 26, the committee sponsored two half-day workshops on usability presented by James R. Lewis. The morning workshop, "Introduction to Usability Testing," covered the concept of usability, the history of usability testing, various goals of usability testing, and how to run usability tests. In the afternoon, "Advanced Topics in Usability Testing" covered advanced topics, including sample size estimation for usability tests, computation of confidence intervals, and the use of standardized usability questionnaires. Both workshops were well attended and received.

In 2003, the committee conducted a survey to assess the education and training needs of HFES members. Based on the results, the committee identified content and skill areas in which members perceived a need for further education and training. (Complete results can be viewed at <http://www.hfes.org/web/Membership/survey.pdf>.) Respondents characterized usability as a top training need.

Based on the success of this year's workshops, the Education and Training Committee will continue to sponsor a workshop at each annual meeting to address members' needs. Proposals for future workshops in the identified skill and content areas are solicited (see table below). Proposals are subject to the normal technical review process. Education and Training Committee workshop presenter(s) are paid a \$1500 honorarium (for a full-day workshop) rather than the standard full-day workshop honorarium of \$1000.

Overall, more than 50% of survey respondents (of a total of 933) indicated that educational programming on the following HF/E content areas is needed: display, GUI, signage; HCI; cognition; sensation-perception; situation awareness; training; and expert systems.

Respondents also indicated that skills training in these areas are needed: task and cognitive task analysis, simulation methods and tools, statistics and data analysis, test and evaluation methods, usability analysis, applying human factors/ergonomics principles, workload measurement, and modeling.

The 50th Annual Meeting Call for Proposals will be posted at the HFES Web site in early January. If you wish to have your workshop proposal evaluated by the Education and Training Committee, simply indicate as much in your summary. Questions may be addressed to Pat DeLucia at pat.delucia@ttu.edu. ☉

# Designing for Accessibility: HFES Standardization Activities

By Daryle Gardner-Bonneau

Although human factors professionals have been involved in usability work for many years, their interest in accessibility has been relatively recent. Legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act has highlighted the need for products, services, and systems to be not only usable but accessible. In the United States, we tend to interpret accessibility narrowly in terms of disability, whereas accessibility is much more broadly defined internationally.

In countries like Japan, for example, the focus on accessibility has been driven just as much – if not more – by the accelerated graying of the population. In 2003, 19% of Japan's population was over the age of 65; by 2015, it is expected that 26% will be over age 65. Contrast this with the U.S. numbers: 12% of the population over the age of 65 now, versus an expected 20% by the year 2030.

Older adults have many difficulties using mainstream products and services that have often been designed based on data and/or usability testing results from populations in which the elderly were minimally represented, if represented at all. Nichols, Rogers, and Fisk (2003) discussed this problem and argued that empirical human factors papers should be required to provide significant data about the age distribution of their subject populations, so that someone designing for the elderly can determine the applicability of the data to older adults. Thus, accessibility is not a matter of designing for a relatively small population of exceptional users classified into narrow disability categories; it is a matter of designing to meet the needs of the broadest possible range of expected users of a product, service, or system.

Clearly, there is a need for ergonomics standards that address accessibility. The number of standards efforts in this area has skyrocketed within the past 10 years, so much so that the International Standards Organization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission established a joint working group on accessibility to catalogue the efforts and also to assess, if not ensure, the quality of the results.

HFES members are involved in a number of these standardization efforts, both nationally and internationally. In the remainder of this article, I describe some of these efforts and their current status.

## Accessibility Work in HFES 200

The HFES 200 Committee has been involved in the large-scale development of a five-part standard on software user interface design, two parts of which address the issue of accessibility.

HFES 200.2 is dedicated to software accessibility and is the U.S. counterpart to an ISO standards effort (ISO 9241-171). This standard provides accessibility provisions for desktop software as well as software residing on mainframes and embedded in closed systems. HFES 200.4 concerns the user interface design of interac-

tive voice response (IVR) systems and has incorporated a number of accessibility provisions particularly relevant to making IVR systems accessible to the population of users who must access an IVR via a text telephone, as well as provisions that would help to meet the needs of older adults.

The HFES 200 Committee previously released some parts of the standard as ANSI Draft Standards for Trial Use and is in the process of preparing a draft that will be balloted as per the ANSI canvass process within the next few months. Those interested in reviewing or commenting on this draft standard during the public comment period should contact HFES.

## Accessibility of Medical Instrumentation

A number of HFES members are involved in the design of medical equipment and systems and are participating in the Human Engineering Committee of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI). This committee is developing a human factors standard on medical equipment design (ANSI/AAMI HE-75).

To date, the work of this committee has not addressed accessibility to a great extent, except in areas such as anthropometry and biomechanics and, to a lesser extent, home health care. That may soon change. In October, the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Accessible Medical Instrumentation (AMI), sponsored by the National Institute on Disabilities and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), held a workshop to highlight accessibility issues and needs with regard to the design of medical instrumentation. A number of human factors professionals attended this workshop, including members of the AAMI Human Engineering Committee. In addition, a number of personnel from the RERC-AMI have joined the AAMI committee.

Human factors professionals working in the medical field are aware of the usability problems with devices such as infusion pumps, glucometers, and the like, but the workshop highlighted the fact that the accessibility problems cited most frequently by patients relate to hospital beds and dental and medical examination tables and chairs. It is hoped that the workshop will serve as a catalyst for incorporating accessibility guidance into the AAMI standard.

## International Standards Efforts in Accessibility

It would be impossible to outline all the international accessibility standardization efforts that are occurring within ISO, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and other standardization bodies in this brief article, but they encompass virtually all products, services, and systems, including telephones and telecommunications services, software, and consumer products. In the following sections I discuss some of efforts ongoing in ISO Technical Committee 159 – Ergonomics, in which the United States is participating and which has made the commitment to address accessibility in the standards it produces. HFES members can be proud of its participation in these efforts, through the generous support of the HFES Institute.

*ISO TC159 SC4 WG5.* Significant accessibility-related work is taking place in ISO TC159 SC4 WG5, a subcommittee in which

the standardization efforts focus on software user interfaces. At present, the most developed document is ISO 9241-171 (mentioned previously), which focuses on software accessibility. Several U.S. experts have contributed greatly to this effort, and international representation on the committee is significant and active. Several drafts of ISO 9241-171 have been produced and reviewed, and the U.S. participants have worked many hours to ensure that the U.S. version of the document (HFES 200.2) harmonizes with the international version. It is anticipated that ISO 9241-171 will be balloted as a Draft International Standard in spring 2006.

A second working document in this committee is ISO 9241-151, focusing on World Wide Web user interfaces. The release of this document has been delayed, partly because the drafts produced have not yet sufficiently addressed the issue of accessibility. The reluctance of the committee to release this document attests to the importance that WG5 (and TC159, generally) are placing on accessibility.

**ISO TC159 WG2.** Because of TC 159's commitment to incorporating accessibility in all its standards, Working Group 2 was established directly under the Technical Committee itself. ISO TC159 WG2 is working on a draft technical report with an ambitious goal: to provide relevant ergonomics data and general principles to be considered in the design of any product, service, or system so that it will be accessible to people with special needs, including the elderly.

The basis for work in WG2 is ISO Guide 71 – *Guidelines for Standards Developers to Address the Needs of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities*. This document provides a framework for standards developers to use in ensuring that design standards promote the accessibility of products, services, and systems. It largely consists of tables that lay out the ergonomic factors relevant to four broadly defined categories of human abilities (sensory, physical, cognitive, and allergy) for each of seven aspects of design typically covered in standards (e.g., packaging, materials, user interface, maintenance). The task of WG2, using ISO Guide 71 as the structural framework, is to fill in the cells of these tables with relevant ergonomic data and design principles.

The working group is divided into four subcommittees, each representing a human abilities category. The United States is leading the subcommittee on cognitive abilities, perhaps the most challenging area in which to provide accessibility guidance because of limited (and scattered) data and design expertise related to design of systems for people with cognitive limitations. Progress is being made, however, largely based on the research literature related to cognitive performance and the elderly.

In addition, the subcommittee chair (Daryle Gardner-Bonneau) has been collaborating with personnel on several NIDRR-funded projects related to the design of consumer products like PDAs and smart phones to meet the needs of people with cognitive disabilities, to develop relevant guidance for the cognitive section of the WG2 document. Somewhat surprisingly, the design recommendations emerging from these NIDRR-funded projects, which focus on designing for people with traumatic brain injury, mental retardation, and other cognitive disabilities, are largely consistent

with many of the recommendations in the human factors literature for designing for older adults. The overlap, which was much greater than expected, may assist in developing formal design guidance in this area.

Given the size of its task, WG2 is sorely in need of additional participation, both from the United States and other countries. In particular, expertise is needed in the cognitive area to synthesize the data from multiple, disparate sources to provide useful guidance. WG2 plans to release its first draft in late spring 2006. However, it is anticipated that significant work to further develop and refine the document will continue beyond that point. Anyone interested in becoming involved in this work should contact Daryle Gardner-Bonneau (jdnbonneau@cs.com).

### What the Future Holds

There is no doubt that accessibility is a hot topic, standardization-wise, at the moment. For many countries in Europe, standards are being developed with the goal of driving legislation (which the United States already has). In Japan, one major goal is to manage the design problems that have arisen in a population that is aging at an accelerated rate.

Although the graying of America is occurring at a somewhat slower pace, it *is* occurring, and the United States will eventually face what Japan is dealing with now. As they age, vocal American baby boomers will become a powerful voice, insisting that products, services, and systems be accessible, given the age-related disabilities that nearly all of us eventually experience – the arthritis, the bifocals, the cognitive slowing. When one considers that much of the human performance data that currently guides design were acquired from subject pools that included few older adults – and even fewer people with specific disabilities – there is ample reason to revisit those data to determine whether they still apply and to acquire additional data, as necessary, to ensure that products, services, and systems will truly accommodate the full range of expected users.

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*Daryle Gardner-Bonneau is the principal of Bonneau and Associates, a human factors consultancy in Portage, Michigan. She has been involved in work on ergonomics standards for the past 10 years.*

## Human Factors Standards: Still Time to Get Involved

*By Alan Poston*

Recently, the Executive Council reaffirmed the importance of HFES participation in standards development as a vital component in meeting the Society's strategic goals as well as bridging

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the gap between research and practice. Historically, only a small subset of Society members has had the time and institutional support to actively participate in standards work. The members involved in this work (of whom I am one) believe, however, that human factors standards and best practices would benefit substantially from broader expert participation in their generation. We also think that younger human factors/human engineering professionals would benefit from exposure to these documents and the principles and practices behind them.

To help expand participation in the Society's standards activities, we are proposing the formation of a Human Factors Standards Technical Group. Members of such a technical group would be kept aware of all ongoing national and international human factors/human engineering standards and best practices programs. Members could volunteer to serve as reviewers or as authors of standards documents in their areas of expertise. They could help ensure that these documents are relevant and useful and could also ensure that the Society's positions are reflective of the experience and expertise of our very broad constituency.

Some of you may have had the opportunity to attend the special interest group meeting at the 49th Annual Meeting to discuss the Society's standards activities. Or you may have visited the HFES Technical Standards booth in the Exhibit Hall. Many agreed that the formation of a Human Factors Standards Technical Group would be useful and signed a petition to that effect.

But more Society members are needed to get involved in the generation of human factors/human engineering standards and best practices. Show your support for the formation of a technical group by sending your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail (please indicate if these are home or business) to Alan Poston at [aposton86@comcast.net](mailto:aposton86@comcast.net).

*Alan Poston is a human factors coordinator in the Air Traffic Organization, Federal Aviation Administration. He is also chair of the Human Factors Standardization SubTAG of the Department of Defense Human Factors Engineering Technical Advisory Group (DoD HFE TAG).* ☉

## LOCAL CHAPTERS

### Sparking Chapter Revitalization Efforts

*By Fayona B. Meyerovitz, Chapter Revitalization Subcommittee Chair*

The Chapter Revitalization Committee was founded in 2004 as a subcommittee of the Chapter Affairs Committee. The Revitalization Committee acts as a support network for members who would like to establish, revive, or boost local chapter activity. Support has mainly taken the form of providing guidelines and information regarding HFES procedures, sharing information and experience around the logistics of chapter development, and motivating members to participate in local chapter activity.

Committee volunteers include Jean-Francois D'Arcy, Fayona Meyerovitz, Gulshan Panjwani, Stephen Popkin, and Lynn Strother. We also gain leadership and support from Don Lassiter, who chairs the Chapter Affairs Committee.

Initial efforts to revitalize most inactive chapters were not immediately encouraging. The Revitalization Committee found low membership numbers in most areas where chapters had become inactive. The committee drew up a list of all U.S. states in which there are HFES members. We analyzed where the most opportunity for local chapter development exists based on high HFES membership numbers and low activity. We learned that communities move around jobs and opportunities. There is ample possibility for successful revitalization in areas where there are many members but where activity has not been formally organized.

Our contact with members in the regions most densely populated with HFES members has been rewarding because we have found that the motivation to revitalize has turned into successful local chapter meetings. Areas of successful revitalization and promise include, but are not limited to, the Alamo Chapter, the Atlanta Chapter, the Central Ohio Chapter, the Ohio State Chapter, the Tri-State Chapter, and the Western New York Chapter. Interest in chapter development has become apparent as far abroad as Singapore and Melbourne, Australia. We would like to thank HFES members in each area of revitalization or chapter development for their commitment, efforts, and achievements toward building local professional communities. Continuously growing the strength of a professional society begins at a grass-roots level, and we are grateful to revitalizing chapters not only for their impressive local efforts but also for their contribution to HFES on a national level.

Members interested in chapter revitalization can contact committee members through the *HFES Directory and Yearbook*. More information about the committee and tips for revitalizing chapters are available on the HFES Web site (<http://www.hfes.org/web/Chapters/chapterrevitalize.html>). We point interested members to the HFES chapter handbooks "Organizing a Chapter" and "Operating a Chapter." The committee has received consistently positive feedback about the usefulness of these publications in reviving and building local chapters. The publications may be downloaded from the HFES Web site or e-mailed by request.

The Chapter Revitalization Committee welcomes questions, interest, and collaboration from members and also volunteers who would like to join our voyage of chapter discovery. We look forward to continuing successful efforts toward building our professional communities.

### Local Chapter Distinguished Service Award

HFES local chapter presidents are invited to nominate their chapters for the annual Local Chapter Distinguished Service Award. The deadline for nominations has been extended from December 10, 2005, to *January 10, 2006*.

Nominations should be submitted according to the procedures previously sent to presidents via the local chapter presidents list-serv. Submit nominations to Chapter Affairs Committee Chair Don Lassiter at [dlassiter@aol.com](mailto:dlassiter@aol.com) or [lassiter@methodist.edu](mailto:lassiter@methodist.edu). ☉

## And The Winners Are...

By *Anthony D. Andre, Student Affairs Chair*

The Student Affairs Committee is pleased to announce the 2005 Students Members with Honors and Outstanding Student Chapter Awards, which were presented at the HFES 49th Annual Meeting in Orlando.

### Student Member with Honors

This designation honors students who have made an outstanding contribution to the discipline and/or HFES during their tenure as a student. Six distinguished students received this designation in 2005:

- Hyeg Joo Choi, Miami University of Ohio
- Ellen Carpenter, Old Dominion University
- Heather Priest, University of Central Florida
- Kelly Hale, University of Central Florida
- J. Christopher Brill, University of Central Florida
- Razia Nayeem, University of Central Florida

### Outstanding Student Chapter Awards

This award honors student chapters that have made an outstanding contribution to the discipline, HFES, their campus, and/or their communities in a particular year. Three exemplary student chapters received the award in 2005:

- University of Central Florida
- San Jose State University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Student members of HFES are a tremendous asset to the Society. We are fortunate to have such talented and devoted upcoming professionals as colleagues. I encourage more students and student chapters to apply for these awards in 2006. Watch for the application announcement shortly after the new year! ☒

## NEWS

## Designers Take on the Safety Challenge

By *Mark Lee*

How safe do you feel? I don't know about you, but in 2005 I feel less safe than I did before 9/11. I also feel more annoyed (such as every time I have to take my shoes off to get on an airplane). In addition, as a human factors/ergonomics professional, I feel strongly about the safety of the end user in my work.

All those reactions were reinforced by a visit to the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City, where I viewed a recent exhibit, "SAFE: Design Takes on Risk." The idea was to show how the design community can play a role in addressing risk. A good portion of the exhibit included practical and forward-looking

design ideas that would enhance safety. This goal matches the mission of HFES well, and the exhibit should be of interest to our members.

Of course, this was an art exhibit, so there were a variety of designs to provoke emotion and thought. For example, one product was a special suit designed to keep protesters safe. Not only did it pad the torso well to protect the wearer during clashes with police, but it included a speaker that could amplify your heartbeat, which the designer intended to emphasize the humanity of the wearer. That was not the only bit of whimsy on display: There was also a line of safety clothing and equipment for small animals (for example, a very realistic gas mask for an otter). My six-year-old daughter thought it was cute, but it was also a comment on environmental risk to wildlife.

Some of the most interesting and creative exhibits were novel approaches to shelter for homeless people. One design was a corrugated paper house that could be assembled in 15 minutes, at least according to the caption. The shelter would last a year and could be ganged with others to form larger structures. This type of thing would be very practical for hurricane relief. The other interesting idea was a clear plastic shelter design for homeless people that could be attached to the heat-exhaust vents of a building to keep the occupant warm. The occupant could also see outside the shelter to monitor his or her safety. The designer who worked in this area actually conducted interviews with homeless people before the design and then tested the designs with them. I can't say this solves the problems associated with homelessness, but I did appreciate the user-centered approach of the designer.

SAFE is the first major design exhibit since MoMA was reopened after a two-year renovation and expansion project. There are more than 300 items on display, and many address issues that our profession champions. There was even one exhibit, a help point for the New York City subway system, that a colleague of mine worked on and that I know will be put into use soon. There were exhibits on equipment for extreme environments, first responders, and children, as well as household items. Some of my favorites included outlet covers that require a twist before a plug can be inserted, and push pins with a protective plastic cover on each pin to prevent you from sticking yourself.

The exhibit was full of little surprises and things I had never thought about before. One neat idea that stuck out was the "banana bunker," an expandable plastic case that protects a banana from becoming mush in your bag. Another interesting bag idea was a category of objects designed around crime prevention that included handbag and backpack designs that discourage purse or bag snatching.

The exhibit runs through January 2, 2006, and if you can attend in person, do it. The experience is well worth it, and there are five additional floors of modern art to view. A Web site showcases the exhibit online at <http://www.moma.org/exhibitions/2005/safe.html>.

If you visit, you will definitely see some interesting, new, and thought-provoking designs. As for me, though I feel less safe these days, I was also pleased and proud to see practical, well-designed contributions that emphasized the safety of the user. That is something that HFES members can support.

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LATEST FROM HFES:

## Reviews of Human Factors and Ergonomics, Volume 1

# 2005

Edited by  
Raymond S. Nickerson

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society is proud to announce the publication of the first volume in a new annual series, *Reviews of Human Factors and Ergonomics*. The series is intended to condense human factors/ergonomics knowledge in specific subject areas into a form that will provide HF/E professionals with a comprehensive understanding of each topic – its current state, important new research findings and technology, and current issues and research needs. In addition, the series seeks to inform specialists outside the HF/E community and laypersons who have an interest in the problem areas addressed.

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## Reviews of Human Factors and Ergonomics

# 2005

VOLUME 1

Volume Editor:  
Raymond S. Nickerson

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## Watch for Volume 2 in 2006 edited by Robert C. Williges

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# FLASH!

## Free Dues Winner

Congratulations to Shawna J. Rothblum, who won a random drawing for a free HFES dues renewal for those who completed and turned in 49th Annual Meeting surveys. Thank you to all who participated in the survey. Your input is greatly appreciated!

## Happy Holidays & Happy New Year from HFES!

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