In late March, the HFES Executive Council (EC), division leaders, and the Policy and Planning Committee met to discuss the priorities and plans of HFES. Four breakout groups were formed to generate five priorities and single out one as the most important. Those priorities appear in this graphic (available on the last page of this issue) with the top priority in color. As you can see, although there are some differences in wording, there was remarkable consensus.

When the priorities were sorted, they suggested to me the five clusters I’ve labeled in the graphic. Productive Meetings relates to each of the other four clusters, and thus it is the center of the network. This is an exciting but volatile time for professional meetings. At HFES, several initiatives are already under way regarding meeting planning. For example, for the past two years we have hosted a successful health-care symposium. There are discussions of more meetings on the horizon on different topics. An ongoing task force of the Meetings Policy Committee is aimed at evaluating our annual meeting, looking for continuing opportunities to improve it. But, again, these are volatile times. The current economy has affected all of us, but especially our colleagues in government and the military. At any professional meetings in the near future, we may be deprived of valuable contributions, both formal ones made from behind a lectern and the more casual ones made from behind a cocktail.

I was excited to see a priority emerge from the breakout groups suggesting that HFES should be directly involved in helping members improve society in general. Advance the Science and Practice of the Discipline for the Betterment of Society rose to the top of three teams’ rankings. This is indeed a noble goal and one that I hope to address by forming a task force or two to deal with HF/E societal challenges. A team led by Raymond Nickerson that included Pascale Carayon, Gary Klein, Wendy Rogers, Thomas Sheridan, and Christopher Wickens has already completed a report suggesting several directions in which a Human Factors Societal Challenge Task Force might go. The results from such a task force can be leveraged using our new liaisons in Washington, D.C., Lewis-Burke & Associates, to garner supporters and advocates on the Hill. Most of what we do as individual HF/E professionals is look to the outside world to try and help. To me, HFES seems poised to be able to assist with that.

Another priority of the EC is one that has occupied the thinking of many of us: Educate the Next Generation. Clearly this has been a priority of some for many years. Ron Shapiro and his “Games to Explain Human Factors” come to mind; “Games” has been a perennial asset. The Society offers free webinars that are valuable in training. Many activities at the Annual Meeting are planned with students in mind. Formal committees exist within HFES governance to aid young professionals. Yet, I worry about our future. Raja Parasuraman raised a red flag about the pipeline of future academics. In an environment in which graduate training programs are closing, federal funding for students is shrinking, and the academy is changing, I think I’m right to worry, and I’m not alone. President Eduardo Salas has already put Nancy Cooke in charge of a task force to explore the issue.

Other parts of the problem might be that we do not have a presence early enough in the educational system, that HF/E is not recognized as STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) by some, and so on. A committee led by Randa Shehab and including Kenneth Allendoerfer,
Richard Pak, Betty Sanders, Arathi Sethumadhavan, and Tracey Wortham conducted a survey of the next generation and proposed a few contests and activities that are designed to address our pipeline problem. Their ideas are being vetted through the Outreach Division this summer. Finally, I want to point out that the Education Technical Group is dedicated to exactly this priority. I was surprised to learn that many of our members—even our academic members—do not belong to the ETG. Please consider joining and becoming involved through HFES in addressing the priority.

Another initiative we discussed that relates to education is the establishment of a human factors methods small-book series along the lines of those produced by SAGE for quantitative methods (“green books”). I think this is an exciting possibility, and HFES staff are looking into its viability. For those of you unfamiliar with SAGE’s green books, they are short reports designed to take someone from virtually no understanding of a complex quantitative method and give him or her the detailed directions and examples to move toward being comfortable conducting the analysis. I remember judiciously reading through the book on multidimensional scaling and learning and understanding how to do one. I’ve even presented on it professionally since then. Our discipline has a plethora of methods that could be more easily communicated to our students (OK, and to us too) through a version of the green books.

Another priority identified during the midyear Council meeting was Provide Opportunities to Connect with Others, Inside and Outside the Discipline. Inside the discipline, we reminded ourselves that we are part of a global community of HF/E professionals. We certainly have an exceptional international membership, but we often think of ourselves as a national organization. We discussed our relationship with the International Ergonomics Association, the viability of meeting outside the United States, and the organizational structure a Global Committee might take. The time for such a look is now. I will be forming a task force this fall that will look at the entire HFES committee structure. The task force will compare our structure with our priorities and strategic plans and may conclude that we have essentially the structure we need, or the group will recommend changes. In either case, I’d like to see how they foresee global initiatives being handled.

Looking outside the discipline is more challenging but promises to be more rewarding. We started some of this external focus by involving Lewis-Burke Associates. Again, many among the membership successfully focus externally every day, and it is time our Society does more of it as well. I think you possess a wealth of valuable information about connecting with non-HF/E folks. How do you convince the project manager to fund this, or the programmer to code that, or the line boss to actually try this? You do it routinely. The rest of the membership could learn from you.

So, the EC is poised to look outside itself toward substantive societal needs, toward its future through its students and educational responsibilities, and even outside itself toward the international community. But the EC is also poised to look outside itself toward its own committee volunteers and membership. One of my hopes in my upcoming presidency, beginning this fall, is to establish more bottom-up communication. We are going to begin with teleconferences between the president and the committee chairs of each division. Eventually, I hope to develop a tractable procedure that allows regular bottom-up communication between the membership and the EC.

I would enjoy hearing from you about your take on any of these priorities and other priorities you may have. E-mail is probably the best medium, frank.durso@gatech.edu, but I also enjoy hearing a human voice, so feel free to call me at 404/894-6771. If you’re an international member and want to call, my Skype name is ftdurso. I am glad to talk with you about any matter regarding HFES or the direction of the discipline.

As Eisenhower reminds us, “plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.” So we may be getting the details of specific plans wrong, but with your help, we can ensure that we benefit from the planning.

Frank is a professor of psychology at the Georgia Institute of Technology and coordinator of the school’s engineering psychology program. He also directs the Cognitive Ergonomics Lab (CEL).
On April 10, President Obama released his budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2014. Generally the president’s budget request marks the beginning of the congressional appropriations process. The budget request is largely consistent with that of FY 2013 and is very supportive of the research and education agencies. Although it’s unlikely that Congress will pass the proposal in full, the budget reflects the Obama administration’s priorities and possible areas of future agency investment.

In order to provide for some of the proposed increases, the president assumes a more optimistic scenario for federal discretionary spending than the current caps set by the Budget Control Act of 2011 or the “still in effect” budget sequestration. Moreover, despite the continued disagreement in Congress about federal spending and future tax policy, the president’s budget request identifies cost savings in the form of additional health-care provider cuts and changes to entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare, as well as additional tax and revenue raisers to help fund signature Obama administration priorities. Both of these proposals are expected to be met with skepticism on Capitol Hill, complicating the likelihood that the budget request priorities can be adopted in their current form.

Particular winners among the federal research agencies, as in Obama’s FY 2013 request, include the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, and defense basic research. Top-line objectives of job creation, infrastructure revitalization, clean energy, cybersecurity, manufacturing, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education—as expressed during the 2012 election cycle and subsequent 2013 State of the Union speech—are reinforced throughout the request. The budget also would provide an increase for the National Institutes of Health with continued emphasis on translational science, neuroscience, and Alzheimer’s disease and would expand research on mental health and gun violence.

In addition, the president is proposing $50 billion to fund infrastructure investments, primarily to address immediate investments for highways, bridges, transit systems, distressed buildings, and airports nationwide. Expectations are that states, public entities, and nonprofit organizations will support this area for investment with Congress and be largely responsible for the ultimate implementation of any congressionally approved programs.

The full Lewis-Burke analysis is available here.

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, a leading Washington, D.C.–based government relations and consulting firm, represents the public policy interests of scientific societies and institutions of higher education. Lewis-Burke’s staff of about 20 government relations professionals work to promote the federal research and policy goals of HFES and the HF/E community.

INSIDE HFES

HFES Division Spotlight: Internal Affairs

By David B. Kaber, Chair, Internal Affairs Division

[Throughout the year, the HFES Bulletin will feature brief reports on progress within the Society’s five divisions: Internal Affairs, Outreach, Professionalism, Scientific Publications, and Technical Standards.]

So far this year, all committees within the Internal Affairs (IA) Division have made substantial progress. Many members may not know this, but IA is one of the largest divisions in the Society, with eight committees:
• 2013 Annual Meeting Host Committee – Nancy Heacox, Chair
• Chapter Affairs Committee – Frederick Rudolph, Chair
• Council of Technical Groups (COTG) – Caroline Cao, Chair
• Early-Career Professionals (ECP) Committee – Joshua Hoffman and Enid Montague, Cochairs
• Special Meetings Committee – Anthony D. (Tony) Andre, Chair
• Student Affairs Committee – Kim Vu, Chair
• Student Support Task Force – Kermit G. Davis, Chair
• Technical Program Committee (TPC) – Christopher B. Mayhorn, Chair

To date, the Annual Meeting Host Committee has established a team of HFES members to organize hospitality, public relations, publications, and events—including special tours—for the meeting in San Diego. The committee also welcomes any suggestions from members on Annual Meeting activities.

The Chapter Affairs Committee supports local chapter organization and financial management. The committee is currently seeking additional volunteer members. Those who are interested may contact Fred Rudolph.

Developed for last year’s Annual Meeting, the Student Travel Honorarium Program (STHP) was unveiled by the COTG. This program provides support for up to 12 students to attend the Annual Meeting and deliver their presentations. Currently, the COTG is seeking volunteers to help administer the program and review applications. To participate, contact Caroline Cao. To apply, see the call for participation.

In 2013, the ECP Committee developed a LinkedIn group to facilitate networking among all early-career professionals throughout the year. Other goals of the ECP Committee include mapping the needs of early-career professionals, based on career type and training, to identify resources and future Annual Meeting content that might be useful. The committee also plans to propose providing support for international early-career professionals to attend the Annual Meeting. At the 2012 Annual Meeting in Boston, the committee hosted both a reception and an informal session to engage Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics leadership. The committee will host similar events in San Diego and welcomes all those new to the industry to attend. The ECP is looking for senior Society members to volunteer for “Speed Mentoring” sessions at the 2013 Annual Meeting. If interested, please contact Enid Montague.

The Special Meetings Committee has planned to develop one to two new events per year and seeks input from Society members for ideas and topics. The committee is in the process of planning summits on the topics of driver distraction and safety/disasters human factors. The group is also seeking volunteers to help organize any summits approved by the Executive Council. If you have ideas for a meeting or would be interested in serving on the committee, please contact Tony Andre.

The Student Affairs Committee is one of the most active committees in the division. This past year, HFES approved two new student chapters. Half of all student chapters received monetary support from the Society. The committee hosts a reception for students who attend the Annual Meeting and a luncheon for student chapter presidents. The committee also participates in the organization of the successful Student Career and Professional Development Day. In the future, the group plans to consolidate the student reception, student chapter president’s luncheon, and Career Day into a single day at the Annual Meeting to accommodate more student attendees. If you have any ideas or input, please contact Kim Vu.

The Student Support Task Force, created in 2011, is one of our latest additions. This group continues to seek comments and suggestions from the membership regarding student support programs and is interested in developing a funding program for first-year graduate students. Volunteers are needed to develop methods for distribution of program information to students, select students for support, and help distribute funds. Those interested may contact Kermit Davis.

Finally, the TPC is one of the largest committees of the division. It includes representation of all technical groups (TGs) for Annual Meeting session development and allocation decisions. TPC Chair Chris Mayhorn is serving an extended term, which typically amounts to three years. The TPC re-
cently had a change in its structure to combine posters and demonstrations in Interactive Sessions, with committee member Ronald Boring as chair. The TPC also played an important role in recruiting keynote speaker Annie Murphy Paul for the Annual Meeting in San Diego, based on input from President Eduardo Salas.

Current goals for the TPC include increasing the number of both invited and regular sessions developed by TGs, as part of the Annual Meeting. The objective is to encourage more top-down sessions developed by the TG program chairs, in addition to the usual ad hoc paper submissions that are received via the call for proposals. Another goal is to increase communication between the TPC and COTG to encourage TG chairs to recommend special sessions for the Annual Meeting. For additional information on the operations of the TPC, or to make suggestions regarding meeting content, please contact Chris Mayhorn.

In conclusion, the IA Division will finalize its strategic plan, which will be linked to the overarching Society plan and objectives. For additional information regarding the IA Division, committee activities, or opportunities for service, please contact me at dbkaber@ncsu.edu.

**Reminder: Submit Your Nomination Ballot By May 15**

Nomination ballots for 2013–2014 Officers and Executive Council Members were distributed by postal mail and e-mail to all voting members on April 15. The default to receive nomination and election ballots is by e-mail, unless a member has requested a paper ballot.

Completed ballots may be returned via postal mail, fax, or e-mail. If a member chooses the latter, a dedicated e-mail address for return of the ballot was included as part of the instructions. Members who prefer postal mail for future ballots will need to notify HFES that they will participate by mail ballot only.

For the election of officers, members will be directed to a secure online site hosted by Votenet Solutions, Inc., a third-party supplier of election services to professional organizations. More information and instructions will be supplied in advance of the election.

Please be sure that your member record includes your current e-mail address by logging on at hfes.org. Forgot your user name or password? Contact HFES at membership@hfes.org or by calling 310/394-1811.

**Reminder: Submit Your HF/E Research on Social Media for the Human Factors Prize This Month**

The topic for the 2013 *Human Factors* Prize is the human factors/ergonomics of social media. The period for submitting your work is May 1 through June 1 via the *Human Factors* online submission site. The winning author will receive $10,000 and publication in *Human Factors*.

The Board of Referees is looking for articles that describe HF/E research on the effective and satisfying use of social media, broadly defined to include technology that supports communication among individuals, organizations, or communities. Examples include e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, wikis, LinkedIn, instant messaging, Skype, internet meetings, and collaborative games.

View the *Human Factors Prize FAQ page* to read more and see examples of previously published papers that address this year’s topic. Address any questions to Nancy J. Cooke, Chair, *Human Factors Prize* Board of Referees.
May Webinar Focuses on Finding a Career in User Experience

On May 22, Kenya Oduor, The Design Staffing Group, will present the webinar, “UX Professionals: Designing Your Career.” Members can register [here](#) at no charge. The webinar will take place at

10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon Pacific
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Mountain
12:30-2:00 p.m. Central
1:30-3:00 p.m. Eastern

About the Webinar

Do you have an employer who doesn’t understand the rigor involved in outside-in design? Have employees who can’t code their interface designs? This webinar will investigate the different expectations of and misunderstandings between employers and UX professionals to help attendees find a job that matches their skills and interests. Understanding technical and artistic skills, how to market oneself, what to look for in the right role, and how to set expectations will also be discussed.

Established professionals looking to enhance their careers and students looking to break into the field of application and Web site interface design will benefit from this webinar.

About the Presenter

Kenya Oduor is a human factors engineer with more than 12 years’ experience in the enterprise software and Web site design field as a practitioner and people manager. She has a doctorate in human factors and ergonomics from North Carolina State University.

With experience in user research and analysis, user interface design, and system information architecture, and as a manager of product and development teams, Odour has faced the challenge of educating companies about the value of HF/E. She has worked with traditional technical staffing companies that know little about the various competencies that fall under the user experience umbrella. In response, Oduor has started a niche staffing firm, The Design Staffing Group, focused on placing creative research and design talent. The company also conducts project work and consulting for clients.

Register Today

HFES webinars are free for members. Nonmember registration is available for $125, and nonmember student registration is available for $40. Both nonmember groups can register at [here](#). Please bookmark and check the [HFES Webinars home page](#) for updates on this and future 2013 webinars.

Participate in NEM 2013!

*By Joseph R. Keebler, Chair, NEM Subcommittee*

It’s time to start preparing for National Ergonomics Month! NEM is now in its eleventh year. If you have never participated, there’s no time like the present to get started.

Sign Up for the 4th Annual NEM Expo

This is the official call for participation in the 4th Annual NEM Expo, to be held on **Monday, September 30**, during the San Diego Annual Meeting. The expo will feature booths highlighting the outreach activities performed by organizations, universities, and individuals and will offer attendees the opportunity to participate and learn about these successes. All are welcome to reserve a booth or a poster board for presenting ideas and activities that raise awareness of HF/E in their community.

Participate in the NEM Best Action Plan Contest
The NEM Subcommittee invites all members, local chapters, and student chapters to create a plan of action that actively promotes NEM and HF/E in your communities. Examples include speaking about HF/E at your local schools; writing articles on HF/E for your company or school newsletter or community newspaper; and using the Internet—via social-networking, photo, and video sites—to upload materials and discuss HF/E. Demonstrations of technology of all shapes and sizes are welcome. For more great ideas, visit the NEM Web site. Up to two winners will be awarded $150 to support their action efforts during the Annual Meeting in San Diego.

To participate in the 2013 contest, please include the following information in a Microsoft Word file and send it as an attachment to joseph.keebler@wichita.edu by June 30.

- Title of your action plan.
- Proposer’s name(s), address, e-mail, and daytime phone number.
- Names of other professionals and/or students participating in organizing or implementing your action plan.
- Whether the entry is on behalf of an official local or student chapter. If so, please specify the chapter’s name.
- Brief description of your action plan. What activities are planned?
- Timeline for your action plan. When will you be implementing it?
- Goal(s) of your action plan. What do you seek to accomplish?
- What audience(s) are you targeting (e.g., community, students, corporations, government)?

Entries are also invited for the 2012 NEM Best Implementation Plan Contest. Details for both contests are available here.

For more information, or to reserve space at the NEM Expo, contact me at joseph.keebler@wichita.edu.

**Anthropometry and Biomechanics Standards Meeting**

The U.S. TAG to ISO/TC 159/SC 3 (Anthropometry and Biomechanics) will hold its annual meeting on July 25–26, 2013, at Anthrotech in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Anyone interested in finding out more about this meeting may contact the chair, Robert R. Fox.

**Directory & Yearbook Coming in June**

The HFES 2013–2014 Directory & Yearbook will be mailed in June to all members in good standing who opted to receive it in print. For the most up-to-date member contact information, access the online member directory by logging in at hfes.org with your username and password, then click “Search the online member directory.”

Major sections of the 2013–2014 Directory & Yearbook will be available in PDF format after you sign in. After the latest Directory is released, click “Access major sections of the current Directory & Yearbook” to view PDF files containing the committee, chapter, and technical group reports; lists of officers and committee chairs; award recipients; and more.

If you prefer to receive the printed directory and have not yet opted to do so, please contact the Member Services Department at 310/394-1811, membership@hfes.org.
Council of Technical Groups Announces 2013 Student Travel Honorarium Program

The Council of Technical Groups (COTG) is continuing the Student Travel Honorarium Program (STHP). This program is intended to facilitate student participation in the Annual Meeting, including presenting in TG technical sessions, networking with professionals, and attending TG business meetings. The program focuses on students in financial need.

This year, the STHP will award 12 students up to $700 each to participate in the 2013 Annual Meeting, to be held September 30–October 4 in San Diego, California. The program will fund at a maximum $8,400 in awards.

Requirements for Award Eligibility

- Applicant must have had a paper or poster accepted for the Annual Meeting.
- Applicant must be a full-time student (undergraduate or graduate) at the time of the Annual Meeting.
- Applicant must be an HFES Student Affiliate Member.

Application

Students who wish to apply for a travel honorarium must complete the application and submit it along with the following enclosures:

1. CV or résumé (maximum of 2 pages)
2. Proposed budget for participation in the conference
3. One-page essay identifying reasons for seeking an honorarium and an explanation of how attendance at the Annual Meeting will enhance your academic experience
4. Proof of paper or poster acceptance by a TG
5. Letter of recommendation for a Travel Honorarium from your academic adviser (1 page or less)
6. Complete STHP Endorsement Form (you must attest that all identified needs are legitimate).

Send the application, along with all completed enclosures, no later than June 1, 2013, to COTG Chair Caroline Cao via e-mail. Applicants will be evaluated and selected on a need basis by the current COTG STHP Committee.

Award Process

Awards will be made by July 31, two months prior to the Annual Meeting. All awards will be made to student recipients as gifts to their home institutions. HFES will make gifts by check, and a university or college must have an established gift account through which to receive the gift. The student’s academic adviser and/or department will be responsible for overseeing disbursement of the award to the student recipient from the gift account. All award funds must be used to support student participation in the Annual Meeting.

Applications Invited for 2013 IEA/Liberty Mutual Award

Instituted in 1998, the IEA/Liberty Mutual Award in Occupational Safety and Ergonomics recognizes outstanding original research leading to the reduction or mitigation of work-related injuries and/or to the advancement of theory, understanding, and development of occupational safety research. The award includes a $10,000 cash prize. Submissions for the 2013 award are invited.

Applicants need not belong to the IEA or any of its constituent groups. Relevant disciplines include ergonomics, epidemiology, biomechanics, cognitive and behavioral psychology, design, physiology, medical sciences, economics, and engineering.
The deadline for submitting applications is **May 31, 2013**, and details are available [here](#). Applicants will be notified of the results in mid-July and the winner announced on August 31.

### BCPE Announces Pilot Exam As Part Of Updated Certification Process

The Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics (BCPE) recently announced the launch of a new exam for professional certification that will be available online and administered electronically for the first time at test centers nationwide. BCPE Executive Director Carol Stuart-Buttle stated, “The exam is the culmination of several years’ worth of work by the Board, and contribution from subject matter experts from around the world.”

The exam will be piloted this fall prior to public launch. Potential certificants can apply to take the pilot exam beginning May 1, 2013. The application and other relevant materials will be available on the [BCPE Web site](#). Due to the nature of the pilot process and the contribution that participants will be providing to the Board of Directors, BCPE is reducing its exam fee by 50% as an incentive for pilot participants.

The BCPE is coupling the launch of the new exam with an update to its certification requirements in order to more closely align the educational component with a specific set of core competencies. Further details regarding these changes to the BCPE process will be released on its [Web site](#) as they become available. Questions or comments can be directed to the BCPE by phone 888/856-4685 or e-mail.

### JASS—A Web App for Defining and Measuring Job Aptitudes

*By Christopher Garneau*

In the 1980s and ’90s, the Army developed a system, called the Job Assessment Software System (JASS), to define and measure the aptitudes required to do a job. The system enabled subject matter experts to rate which predetermined skills were required to do a particular job and how much of each skill was required. Such evaluations are important because underskilled personnel may be unable to perform at the required level and/or need time away from the job to receive remedial training; this can lead to the failure of a system to perform at anticipated levels. On the other hand, over-skilled personnel may become bored, dissatisfied with their jobs, and develop poor work habits. Through the years, JASS evolved from a paper-and-pencil survey to a Windows 95 program. Today, the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) is developing a new version of JASS that will be optimized for mobile devices.

A primary goal for the new version of ARL’s JASS is the ability to run on a variety of current software platforms with minimal maintenance and broad accessibility—a goal that led to its development as a Web application. All the analysis features of the old version are present in the Web app, including a step-by-step questionnaire containing yes-no questions for identifying relevant skills and a sliding scale to rate the amount of each skill required to perform various duties of a given job assignment. The app will also provide features that capitalize on Web technology, such as the ability to visualize results in a variety of formats, including charts and graphs, and the ability to capture and share results via e-mail.

As one of the Army’s many tools for human factors integration, JASS has performed an important role in maximizing workplace performance. The new version of JASS has been designed to be more usable and accessible than its predecessor system and will be available to interested practitioners later in 2013. For more information about JASS or how to access it once it is available, please contact [Chris Garneau](#).

*Chris Garneau is a mechanical engineer with the Army Research Laboratory and has developed a new Web app for the Job Assessment Software System (JASS).*
Register for the 2013 SEIPS Short Course

Cosponsored by the University of Wisconsin Center for Quality and Productivity Improvement and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the 2013 Systems Engineering Initiative for Patient Safety (SEIPS) Short Course is designed to provide an understanding of human factors and systems engineering and how this approach to patient safety can improve system performance and safety, prevent harm when error does occur, help systems recover from error, and mitigate further harm. In addition to lectures, the course will allow participants to actively apply HF/E concepts and techniques.

Scheduled for July 15–18, the course is designed for physicians and other professionals interested in human factors engineering and patient safety. Visit the course’s Web site for more information.

CALENDAR

May 2013


June 2013


