From Student to Employee: What’s HFES Got To Do With It?

By Donald J. Horvath, Carl F. Smith, and Peter N. Squire, George Mason University

The transition from student to employee can be a difficult and sometimes frightening one. To aid in this transition, students often look to professional societies and their academic programs for support. Because of this, it is critical for societies and programs to offer resources that best serve students’ practical needs.

In 2006, a team of students from George Mason University conducted a survey to identify the services that students value (e.g., career information, mentorship). In this article, we describe the survey and some of the key findings.

Survey Scope and Respondents
The survey measured students’ assessments of how effective their university and their professional societies were in preparing them for a career. We also asked students to identify services already offered by societies and universities, as well as those they would like to see offered. Students had an opportunity to highlight potential improvements to both universities’ and professional societies’ services.

We sent about 600 Student Affiliate members of HFES an e-mail message with a link to the 17-question online survey and received 99 responses (16.5%). Those respondents represented 43 universities (see Appendix A on page 2).

Can Professional Societies Be More Effective?
We asked students to rate how effective their universities and professional societies have been in preparing them for a career. Effectiveness was rated on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 representing “not at all effective” and 10 representing “very effective.” The survey indicated a mean university effectiveness rating of 7 (SD = 1.8) and a mean professional society effectiveness rating of 6 (SD = 2.0). This suggests that students perceive universities as slightly more effective than professional societies in preparing them for a career. Given students’ frequent contact with their universities’ programs, this is not surprising. These results, however, raise the question: Can societies increase their effectiveness in preparing students for a successful career?

Available Services
Because perceptions of effectiveness are tied to the type and quality of career resources available to members, it is important to identify the services offered by each organization. The services can then be evaluated to identify those most likely to increase a professional society’s effectiveness in preparing students for a successful career.

In the survey, we requested that each student list the top five services provided by their universities and professional societies. The top five services are shown below in order of perceived importance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Universities</th>
<th>Professional Societies</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Mentoring</td>
<td>1. Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Networking</td>
<td>2. Job listings/searches</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Internships</td>
<td>3. Conferences</td>
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<td>4. Research opportunities</td>
<td>4. Mentoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Job opportunities</td>
<td>5. Career fairs/career information</td>
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Although the amount of overlap in services is noticeable, several interesting observations can be made from the rankings. First, few students reported mentoring relationships as a service available from professional societies. Although the close mentoring relationships developed in graduate school may be considered the “gold standard” to which all mentoring relationships can be compared, the ranking of mentoring in the table above may indicate a potential avenue that professional societies can take to improve their effectiveness.

There was also a noticeable lack of mention of internships among services offered by professional societies. Although the close mentoring relationships developed in graduate school may be considered the “gold standard” to which all mentoring relationships can be compared, the ranking of mentoring in the table above may indicate a potential avenue that professional societies can take to improve their effectiveness.

To further expand on how to increase the effectiveness of professional societies, we asked students to list services they would like to receive that are not being offered. The top five desired services were as follows:

1. Mentoring
2. Networking
3. Job listings
4. Internship opportunities
5. Scholarship opportunities

Interestingly, the top three services that students would like to see offered are available from professional societies. This suggests...
that either students want improvements to current services, or they are simply unaware that the service already exists.

In the category of students who would like to see improvements to currently offered services, some noted that job listings are beneficial, but they would like to see them updated more frequently. In the category of students who are not aware of the services that societies offer, one student, for example, mentioned a desire to become more involved in the human factors community but did not know how to do so. Given the fact that we received several comments similar to this latter response, societies might be able to increase the effectiveness of their services by making them more visible and accessible to students. Specific suggestions and comments along these lines are listed in Appendix B.

Insights and Conclusion

The results of this survey offer some brief insights into the professional needs of students. Judging from our findings, it appears that future surveys should assess the impact of improvements to current services, students’ awareness of services, and the effectiveness of any new services that may be added. By improving services that directly support students, societies can communicate how much they value students as members. This investment at the student level may create an active future member.

We challenge HFES and universities to continue to examine students’ needs through an annual survey that evaluates the effectiveness of specific programs, activities, and information that HFES and universities provide for students. This information could then be used to improve future services and offerings.

The transition from student to employee is challenging. Professional societies and universities can aid students in that transition, but they need to be attentive to students’ needs. Without that awareness, how can societies and universities effectively develop transition plans for students? As HFES celebrates its 50th Anniversary, we hope this survey can serve as a first step in helping students become part of the Society’s plans over the next 50 years.

Appendix A: Universities Represented in the Student Survey

- Alliant International U., San Diego
- Brigham Young U., Hawaii
- California State U., Long Beach
- California State U., Northridge
- Catholic U.
- Clemson U.
- Cornell U.
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U.
- Fordham U.
- George Mason U.
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Naval Postgraduate School
- North Carolina A&T State U.
- North Carolina State U.
- Pennsylvania State U.
- Purdue U.
- Rice U.
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- San Jose State U.
- Texas Tech U.
- Tufts U.
- U. of Arkansas
- U. of Central Florida
- U. of Cincinnati
- U. of Dayton
- U. of Illinois
- U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- U. of Iowa
- U. of Miami
- U. of Michigan
- U. of New Mexico
- U. of Queensland
- U. of Saskatchewan
- U. of South Dakota
- U. of Toronto
- U. of Utah
- U. of Waterloo
- U. of Western Sydney
- U. of Wisconsin, Madison
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State U.
- West Virginia U.
- Wichita State U.
- Wright State U.

Appendix B: Student Suggestions

1. Improvements to available services
   - Job listings updated more frequently
   - A more formal and strategic mentoring program
   - Online internship postings
   - International internship opportunities
   - Organized graduate internship program
   - More mentoring opportunities with individuals who are working in the field

2. Increase awareness of services
   - On-campus promotions
   - Faculty contacts
   - Direct liaison with student chapters
   - On-campus initiatives with speakers representing professional societies

3. Additional services suggested by respondents
   - Scholarship opportunities
   - Online advertisement of scholarship opportunities
   - Free access to all journal archives
   - Online financial aid information
Donald J. Horvath received his B.S. in psychology at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 2006. He is a master’s degree candidate in the Human Factors and Applied Cognition Program at George Mason University. Carl F. Smith graduated from Old Dominion University in 2002 with a B.S. in psychology. He is a doctoral student in the Human Factors and Applied Cognition Program at George Mason University, where he is completing his dissertation. Peter N. Squire received his B.S. in computer science from Mary Washington College. He is a computer scientist/engineering psychologist at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division and is pursuing a Ph.D. in human factors and applied cognition at George Mason University through an N-STAR fellowship sponsored by the Office of Naval Research.

Afterword

By Anthony D. Andre, Student Affairs Committee Chair

On behalf of HFES, I thank the authors of the foregoing article both for highlighting the important need for HFES to aid students in their career planning and professional development and for providing specific data and suggestions for improving the relationship between HFES and its student members. As the Student Affairs Committee chair, I promise to take action on the suggestions and conclusions of this article.

Given the finding that the students surveyed may be unaware of desired resources that HFES offers, I briefly reiterate those services and how they may be accessed and utilized.

The HFES Career Center (http://www.hfes.org/web/CareerCenter/Career.aspx) allows you to post your résumé and search the available jobs and internships. Additionally, each year the HFES Career Center hosts an On-Site Career Center at the HFES Annual Meeting, where you can find out about job opportunities and schedule interviews with potential employers.

Mentoring sessions that bring together academic and practitioner professionals with students take place at each Annual Meeting. Look for announcements this summer and take advantage of this great opportunity. For more information, contact Haydee Cuevas at haydee.cuevas@satechnologies.com.

Additional career guidance is contained in the “Educational Resources” and “Information for Students” sections at http://hfes.org. Each has information on internships and career paths, among other resources, to aid you in your career development and planning. You will also find free information on career planning and preparation, job hunting, and interviewing.

Don’t miss the student career panel, “Guide to Successful HF/E Career Preparation,” on Tuesday, October 2, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. during the 51st Annual Meeting. This session provides an open forum for students to ask questions of a panel of academic and industry experts.

Again, I thank the authors of this article for providing data that can be used to improve the support and resources that HFES provides to students. I invite additional suggestions about HFES that can best serve the student population. Feel free to contact me at andre@interface-analysis.com or 408/848-6014.

Renowned Research in Ergonomics: Reflections, Previews, and a Tribute

By Kermit Davis, 2007 IETG Program Chair

The Industrial Ergonomics Technical Group has invited two internationally renowned scientists and speakers, William Marras and Svend Erik Mathiassen, to give special presentations in a session on Wednesday, October 3, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. during the 51st Annual Meeting.

Marras will present a review of the causes of low-back pain, providing insights into current knowledge and future breakthroughs. The talk will put into context the degree of science behind the understanding of low-back pain. Marras’s perspective from the National Academy of Sciences provides a synthesis of the current state of research.

Mathiassen will offer a new perspective on ergonomic exposure assessment by challenging current analysis paradigms. He will introduce the importance of variability with respect to exposure, assessment, and relationship to health outcomes.

“Reflections on a Career Cut Short: The Impact of Kevin Granata on the Field of Ergonomics” will be the final presentation in the IETG session on Tuesday, October 2, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. During this special tribute to Granata, who died tragically during the terrible events at Virginia Tech in April, we will recognize his many contributions to the field of ergonomics and biomechanics. In a relatively short time, Granata had a major impact on the field of biomechanics and became a leading researcher in low-back biomechanical modeling, muscle coactivation, spine stability, and cerebral palsy.

Items Wanted for Daily Newsletter

The HFES 2007 Annual Meeting newsletter, The Seaport Sentinel, is now accepting items for publication during the Annual Meeting. Topics may include:

- descriptions of demonstrations and descriptions of exhibits
- dates and locations for university reunions/gatherings during the conference
- features on invited speakers, other special guests or retiring HFES members
- previews of panels, debates, and unique sessions
- information on student-related sessions and activities
- announcements of new academic programs
- TG special session or business meeting information
- upcoming events, conferences, or books of interest to attendees.

We encourage e-mail submissions before the meeting to ensure
that we can accommodate them and so that your time at the meet-
ing can be spent on other activities. However, we will also welcome
submissions from all attendees on site. Please submit dates and
locations for university reunions or other meetings as early as
possible.

If you would like to submit an article or learn more about how
you can become involved with The Seaport Sentinel, please contact
the newsletter chair, Kevin Durkee (kdurkee@gmu.edu, 309/369-
7769, 250 S. Whiting St, #620, Alexandria, VA 22304).
The Seaport Sentinel also invites exhibitors and any other inter-
ested parties to advertise in the newsletter. Contact HFES Com-
munications Director Lois Smith at 310/394-1811, lois@hfes.org,
for details.

Neuroergonomics of Visual Cognition: Research and
Applications

By Raja Parasuraman, George Mason University

The neuroscience revolution has reshaped many fields of sci-
ence, medicine, and engineering, but it has only recently begun to
influence human factors/ergonomics, as evidenced by the devel-
opment of neuroergonomics. A discussion panel sponsored by the
Perception and Performance Technical Group at 1:30 p.m. on
Tuesday, October 2, will highlight that growing influence by fo-
cusing on an important area of human performance research and
practice: visual cognition.

The human brain has a remarkable capacity for carrying out
numerous complex computations involving higher-order visual
processes. This panel will address several important questions con-
cerning visual cognition: How do we recognize three-dimensional
moving objects? How does 3-D perception support subsequent
memory for such objects? What are the mechanisms by which we
can understand and interpret the movements of people or other
living things so-called biological motion? Are these visual mech-
anism similar to those used in visual imagery, and how do they
differ between individuals? Finally, how do these neural mecha-
nisms support the perception of natural scenes in real-world envi-
nronments and actions, such as reaching and grasping of objects,
navigation, and automobile driving?

The four leading neuroscientists on this panel Yang Jiang,
James Thompson, Maria Kozhevnikov, and Matthew Rizzo will
describe studies of several aspects of visual cognition that used
behavioral, neuroimaging (fMRI), and electrophysiological (ERP
and MEG) measures. The panelists will also consider implications
of the results for real-world applications. Particular domains of
application that will be examined include design for the elderly,
driving, virtual environments, software design, and curriculum
development in education.

For many years, HF/E researchers have regarded the role of the
human brain as either too complex to understand or unnecessary
to consider. The work presented in this panel will represent a
powerful antidote to this view.

Student Career Day at the
Annual Meeting

By Anthony D. Andre, Student Affairs Committee Chair

For students attending the Annual Meeting, the first item on
your itinerary should be this year’s Student Career and Profes-
sional Development Day a must-do activity for students prepar-
ing to enter the workforce! On Monday, October 1, we will have
three terrific sessions, each of which is described below. Please
plan to attend this special day of interactive presentations and
panels devoted to all students.

Do you know about all the resources HFES has available to
you as a student? The morning session begins with my brief pre-
sentation devoted to this topic. Recent data (see article on page 1)
show that many students are not aware of, or don’t know how to
obtain, the various resources that the Society offers to students.
My goal is to enlighten you on these valuable resources and help
you utilize HFES in the development and advancement of your
career. I’ll finish with a Q&A session and invite suggestions for
additional resources that you would value from the Society.

Who better to inform you about the first year in the workforce
than recent graduates? In the next exciting session, I have gath-
ered a dynamic group of recent students-turned-professionals. All
are about one year removed from the graduate (or undergraduate)
program. Each will present information on transitioning from
school to work, challenges faced in the workforce, and tips on how
to leverage one’s academic background once out of school. A brief
Q&A period will follow. The panelists will then participate in
another Q&A session with the audience. I think this window into
current work environments will provide the most up-to-date
career-planning advice possible.

In the afternoon session, Old Dominion University will host a
panel of industry experts in selected domains. This practitioner
panel will be directed toward preparing students for a career in
industry. Students will be informed about each of the respective
domains represented by the panelists, and the session will include
information on emerging trends and employment opportunities.
Finally, the panelists will provide information on how to prepare
for a career in each of their respective domains and will offer
helpful tips for making the transition from graduate school to
industry.

Plan to attend this special day of events designed just for you!
For further information about the Student Career and Profession-
al Development Day program, feel free to contact me at andre@
interface-analysis.com or 408/848-6014.
“Living Rooms”: Report on the HFES/IDSA Conference on Home Health Care

By Barry H. Beith, Conference Cochair

“Living Rooms: Human Factors and Industrial Design Contributions to the Home as a Health Care Venue,” held on May 1–2 in Washington, D.C., successfully focused on the synergy found between human factors specialists and industrial designers working together to develop both useful and aesthetic products and environments for home health care venues. More than 70 professionals attended, representing human factors/ergonomics, industrial design, physical therapy, occupational therapy, home health services, and product development.

Gary Thieten, owner and president of the Idaho Homecare and Hospice, the largest service and equipment provider in southeast Idaho, set the stage by providing an overview of the issues and challenges facing home health care professionals in the coming “boomer” age.

Among the nine speakers and two panels were such notables as Pattie Moore, who described her seminal work in design research, which she calls empathic research. On a tour of more than 120 cities, during which she dressed as a 70+-year-old (at the age of 23), Moore investigated accessibility and attitudes toward the elderly. James Pirkl’s talk on Transgenerational Home Design was also a major hit. Michael Wiklund led a panel on interactions between human factors and industrial design that included Sheila Crosby (HumanCentric Technologies), Bryce Rutter (Metaphase, Inc.), and Stephen Wilcox (Design Science, Inc.). The panel sparked a spirited discussion of the positives and challenges across the two disciplines.

A panel discussion chaired by Wendy Rogers (Georgia Tech) explored topics of research on such issues as privacy and technology in home health care. This conference was a first successful step in what the Society hopes will be a series of collaborations between HFES and IDSA in recognizing and stimulating interactive efforts. It ably demonstrates how we can focus the efforts of both organizations on the vast needs and opportunities in the home health care arena. The full conference agenda may be found at http://www.hfes.org/Web/HFESMeetings/07/livingroomsprogram.pdf.

Call for Student Award Applications

by Anthony D. Andre, Student Affairs Committee Chair

Each year, HFES recognizes excellence in service to the Society and the field via the Best Student Chapter Award and the Student Member with Honors Award. The Student Affairs Committee is pleased to have an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of our students and student chapters. To apply for these awards, students or chapters must send a completed application (see below) and supporting materials to arrive at the address listed at the end of this article on or before August 15, 2007. Award recipients will be notified by August 31, 2007, and recognized at the 51st Annual Meeting in October.

Note that this year, some of the criteria for the Student Member with Honors award have changed. In addition, student chapter recognition is no longer an award for a select few but, rather, an opportunity for all chapters to achieve various levels of recognition commensurate with their activities and achievements.

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. Students must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Student membership in HFES
- Class standing of junior or senior for an undergraduate, or any graduate student
- Minimum GPA of 3.75 or its equivalent for graduate students (as evidenced by a transcript)
- Minimum GPA of 3.50 or its equivalent for undergraduate students (as evidenced by a transcript)
- Successful completion of at least three human factors–related courses with a grade of A or its equivalent (as evidenced by a transcript or letter from the instructor)
- Two letters of recommendation, at least one of which must be from a Full Member of HFES

In addition, at least two of the following conditions must be met:

- A human factors–related presentation at a national or international meeting (provide photocopy from program or letter from adviser)
- Evidence of significant contribution to an industry project (e.g., product or system design, ergonomics program development, design award, patent)
- Publication of human factors work in an approved journal (e.g., Human Factors, Ergonomics in Design, Applied Ergonomics, or any other journal approved by the Awards Committee)
- Significant service to HFES at the Society-wide or local chapter level (provide letter from committee chair or officer of the group).

Student Chapter Levels of Recognition

This year, we have instituted a new approach to recognizing the contributions and achievements of the student chapters. Chapters will be judged on the number and quality of activities in which they engage across several categories (listed below). The levels of recognition are as follows:

- Gold: This level requires activity in at least nine of the categories listed on the next page.
- Silver: This level requires activity in at least six of the categories listed on the next page.

continued on next page
Student Views, cont.

• Bronze: This level requires activity in at least two of the categories listed below.

  The list of activity categories and selected sample activities is shown below. Note that we are open to a far greater number of activities for each category. The creativity category allows chapters to uniquely define activities and provides an opportunity for some chapters to obtain a recognition level for which they not would otherwise qualify.

• Recruitment – increase the number of members in the chapter
• Guest speakers – invite outside professionals, professors from other universities, or professors from within the same university
• Field trips – visit nearby companies, industries, etc., to learn about new domains
• Outreach/volunteerism – participate in National Ergonomics Month; outreach to fellow students and to students in K–12; public awareness and promotion of HF/E in general
• Collaboration – work with other departments in your university or with other HF/E programs in nearby universities (e.g., local student conference)
• Service to HFES – participate on the Annual Meeting Host Committee or participate in either Annual Meeting student activities or Student Career and Professional Development Day
• Exploration – design or research projects taken on by the chapter; work together to solve some problem
• Social – participate in social activities put on by the chapter to foster interaction among members
• Information dissemination – use a Web site, mail group, Wikipedia, or similar vehicle to share information, promote a program
• Student membership in HFES – encourage chapter members to join HFES as Student Affiliate members
• Mentorship – mentor incoming and new students; participate in student orientation for incoming students
• Continuous improvement – improve the resources of the chapter (library, facilities, etc.)
• Creativity – utilize creative approaches to chapter activities

  Chapters must provide supporting materials (three copies) that document the various activities of the chapter, the recognition level sought (Gold, Silver, or Bronze), and a supporting letter of recommendation from the chapter adviser. In addition, we encourage you to submit other materials that will support the application, such as brochures, announcements, or images from events, videos, and Web sites.

Submitting Your Application

The deadline for applications for both the Student Member with Honors and the Student Chapter Award is August 15, 2007. Applications may be obtained from the HFES Web site (http://hfes.org; select “Chapters”) or directly from me via e-mail at andre@interface-analysis.com. Send three copies of your completed application form plus supporting materials to Anthony Andre, Student Affairs Chair, 6800 Redwood Retreat Rd., Gilroy, CA 95020.

NSBRI Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Soliciting Applications

The National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI) is soliciting applications for its Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. Two-year fellowships are available in any U.S. laboratory carrying out space-related biomedical or biotechnological research that supports NSBRI’s goals. NSBRI research addresses and seeks solutions to the various health concerns associated with long-duration human space exploration.

Applicants must submit proposals with the support of a mentor and institution, and all proposals will be evaluated by a peer-review panel. The program is open to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or persons with preexisting visas obtained through their sponsoring institutions that permit postdoctoral training for the project’s duration.

Detailed program and application submission information is available at http://www.nsbri.org/Announcements/rfa07-02.html. Notices of intent and applications must be submitted through an electronic proposal submission system. Notices of intent are due July 10, 2007, and the application deadline is August 1.

Questions may be directed to Sonia Rahmati Clayton, Program Coordinator, NSBRI Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, postdoc@www.nsbri.org, 800/798-8244.

Salvendy and Karwowski Receive AAES Awards

At a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on May 7, the American Association of Engineering Societies honored two members. HFES President Waldemar Karwowski made the presentations.

Gavriel Salvendy, professor of industrial engineering at Purdue University and chair professor and head of the Department of Industrial Engineering at Tsinghua University, Beijing, P.R. China, received the 2007 John Fritz Medal. The award recognizes fundamental, international, and seminal leadership and technical contributions to the human engineering and industrial engineering education, theory, and practice. This award, established in honor of John Fritz in 1902, is the engineering profession’s most distinguished honor. Salvendy, the first HF/E professional to receive the award, joins former honorees Lord Kelvin, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, Alfred Nobel, and Orville Wright.

A member of the National Academy of Engineering, Salvendy is the founding editor of two scientific journals: the International Journal on Human–Computer Interaction and Human Factors and Ergonomics in Manufacturing.

The AAES Kenneth Andrew Roe Award was presented to Colin G. Drury, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University at Buffalo. This award recognizes an engineer who has been effec-
Colin Drury Honored

By Ann Bisantz, University at Buffalo, and Ellen Goldbaum-Kolin, UB Office of News Services

Colin G. Drury, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University at Buffalo (UB), was honored by fellow international experts in the field of human factors/ergonomics at a conference on May 17–18. Drury is stepping down from his teaching and administrative duties but will continue his research at UB. His integration of research in human factors with studies of human error and quality control have helped pioneer innovations in numerous industries and sectors, including aviation, consumer products, and chemical demilitarization.

The conference, held in Buffalo, New York, was opened by Sara Czaja, University of Miami. Current and former students and colleagues traveled from as far away as Hong Kong, Taiwan, and France to pay tribute to Drury. Keynote speaker Ram Bishu, professor of industrial engineering at the University of Nebraska, emphasized the breadth of Drury’s research. UB Dean Harvey Stenger, UB professor and former dean Mark Karwan, and Professor Emeritus Warren Thomas also spoke about Drury’s extensive contributions and continuing influence on the UB Department of Industrial Engineering throughout the past four decades. Many former students also provided comments.

The FAA honored Drury with its Excellence in Aviation Research Award in 2005. That same year, HFES selected Drury to receive the A. R. Lauer Safety Award. Earlier this year, he received the Kenneth Andrew Roe Award from the American Association of Engineering Societies (see previous article). He is also a recipient of the HFES Paul Fitts Award and the Bartlett Medal of the Ergonomics Society.

Drury is a Fellow of HFES, the International Ergonomics Association, the Institute of Industrial Engineers, and the Ergonomics Society.

Salvendy Receives Highest Award in China

Gavriel Salvendy, professor of industrial engineering at Purdue University and chair professor and head of the Department of Industrial Engineering at Tsinghua University, Beijing, P.R. China, received the 2006 Friendship Award—the most prestigious science and technology award in China—at the State Banquet to celebrate the 57th anniversary of the People’s Republic of China. Before receiving the award, Salvendy met with China Premier Wen Jiabao and discussed the role of human factors and ergonomics in the further economic revitalization of China.

Student Members Win Airport Design Competition

HFES is pleased to announce that a number of student members won first or second place in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)’s Airport Design Competition for Universities.

The First Place Award for Runway Safety and $2,500 was presented to a student team from the Psychology Department at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Raja Parasuraman was the team’s adviser. The students designed a system to address runway incursions, called “Runway Incursion Monitoring and Direct Alert Systems (RIMDAS).”

The Second Place Award for Runway Safety/Runway Incursions Challenge and $1,500 went to the Departments of Aerospace, Industrial, and Systems Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. Amy Pritchett and Daniel Bruneau were the faculty advisers for the winning team.

The FAA created the Airport Design Competition for Universities to engage individual students or student teams at U.S. universities working under the guidance of a faculty mentor to address airport operations and infrastructure issues and needs. Students were presented with a number of technical challenges relating to airport operations and maintenance, runway safety/runway incursions, and airport environmental interactions. The technical challenges embraced many engineering and science disciplines and were often used as part of a design course.

The competition required students to reach out to airport operators and industry experts to seek advice about their proposals and to help them assess the efficacy of their proposed designs/solutions. The competition sought to provide a framework and incentives for quality educational experiences for college students and to raise student awareness of airports as a vital and interesting area for engineering and technology careers.
The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society is excited to launch a new publication in Spring 2007, *Journal of Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making*. **JCEDM** focuses on research that seeks to understand how people engage in cognitive work in real-world settings and the development of systems that support that work.

**JCEDM** differs from most journals by supporting research that grapples with the messy, hard-to-define, and difficult-to-study realities that confront humans as they attempt to interact effectively with complex environments. Emphasis is on descriptive models of decision making and macrocognition that consider people working alone or in conjunction with other individuals or intelligent systems, and the factors effecting decision making and cognition in realistic settings.

**JCEDM** embraces many aspects of human problem solving that have been largely neglected by experimental psychology, including situation awareness, problem definition, planning, attention and uncertainty management, mental projection and simulation, diagnosis, solution validation, adaptation, coordination and shared situation awareness in teams, and metacognition.

**JCEDM** invites submissions for its three topical tracks: Cognition in Context, Studies in Simulations and Synthetic Environments, and Design of Complex and Joint Cognitive Systems. Details about the three topical tracks in **JCEDM** may be found on the Web:


Send your **JCEDM** submissions to cedm.journal@satechnologies.com. The first issue may be viewed online free for 30 days (see the Web site above for details).