On August 17, HFES sponsored the first in a series of free Web seminars featuring the work of human factors/ergonomics professionals. “Meet the Author” Webinars are the Society’s newest vehicle for highlighting important work published in HFES journals for the purposes of educating members and nonmembers alike and promoting the HF/E field.

The work spotlighted in this first Webinar was the Human Factors article, “An Investigation of Driver Distraction Near the Tipping Point of Traffic Flow Stability” (Volume 51, Number 2, pages 261–268) by Joel Cooper (University of Utah) and colleagues. We felt this would make a compelling topic to launch the series, given the extent of news coverage on driver distraction, particularly the media reports in July that in 2003, NHTSA had suppressed data on the dangers of driving while talking on a cell phone.

Following a brief introduction, Joel presented slides and videos as he discussed his study. “Attendees” could submit questions for presentation by the moderator (me); 45 questions were submitted and answered during the 25-minute Q&A portion of the Webinar. Almost 200 people were in virtual attendance, from the United States, Canada, Israel, India, Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, The Netherlands, South Korea, France, Antilles, and Norway. Of note is that 32 of the attendees were nonmembers, as the Webinar was marketed to various LinkedIn and Web groups focused on driving research, and to media members who recently wrote articles on driver distraction.

Feedback From Attendees

Based on feedback from the attendees, I am happy to report that the Webinar was a big success. Among the comments I received are the following:

- A fantastic way to get connected to a community with shared interests. Well run and well done! I would be open to something like this at least monthly. – Mike Boyes

- Thank you for arranging Joel’s clear, concise, enjoyable, interesting presentation. – Malcolm Brookes

- Excellent job…. We are slowly developing a virtual HFES chapter due to our small population and large geographical distribution. This is fast becoming the standard for the efficient and effective dissemination of information for everyone. – Gary M. Bakken

- Thank you very much for organizing the seminar. It was a pleasure to hear the talk and it came off very well. – David Shinar

- Thanks, and I really enjoyed Joel’s talk earlier today – the sessions are a great idea. – Rochelle Evans

- I am really happy to see HFES institute this type of forum. I thought it went really smoothly, the software worked well, and I had no difficulties with the audio or control panel. – Lisa Douglas

- Just a quick note to let you know that I think the Webinar was a very good process. I encourage HFES to continue to use this venue for topics of wide interest. – James P. Foley

- I just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed today’s Webinar. The technology worked great for me – no delays or dropped voice. Thanks again for organizing this and I look forward to future talks! – Steve Jones

- Feedback = excellent. – Raymond Klein

Suggestions for Future Webinars

We also received some excellent suggestions for different uses of the Webinar technology. Here are some of the ideas and feedback:
Pfeifer Keynote to Address U.S. Border Operations

On Tuesday, October 20, during the Opening Plenary Session in San Antonio, the keynote speaker will be John C. Pfeifer, Deputy Chief Patrol Agent of the U.S. Border Patrol, Rio Grande Valley Sector. In his talk, “Border Security Mission – All Threats Environment,” Pfeifer will provide an overview of the Border Patrol organization within the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Pfeifer will discuss the agency mission statement of gaining operational control of U.S. borders and how that goal can be met through the use of the right combination of humanpower, technology, and tactical infrastructure. Current activity levels and trends and border violence issues will also be highlighted.

Deputy Chief Patrol Agent directs the enforcement activities of more than 2,500 employees who work to secure the 317 miles of the U.S. border with Mexico and the entire Texas coastline. Prior to this assignment, he served as an associate chief assigned to the Southwest Border Operations Division (SWB) at the Border Patrol headquarters office in Washington, D.C. During his tenure in Washington, he had oversight of the Yuma, Tucson, and El Paso Sectors. Other duties included serving as the task force director for Operation Jumpstart and as acting deputy division chief for SWB.

Pfeifer, a 23-year Border Patrol veteran, graduated from Saint Michael’s College in Colchester, Vermont, and served 5 years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Secretary’s Department of Homeland Security Team Excellence Award, the Commissioner’s Newton-Azrak Award for Valor, the Excellence in Group Award, and the Border Patrol Purple Cross.

Attend the COHSI Panel on the Future of HF/E Research

William S. Marras, chair of the National Research Council’s Committee on Human-Systems Integration, will moderate an important session on Tuesday, October 20, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Be sure to attend “The Future of Human Factors/Ergonomics Research: Adapt or Die.”

This session will begin with a brief explanation of the role of COHSI. This will be followed by two brief presentations discussing how HF/E research has played a role in traditional and emerging societal issues. Finally, an interactive panel discussion with COHSI members and the audience will discuss the evolving role of HF/E research in modern society. This session will be of interest to researchers as well as practitioners.

Guest speakers and panelists will be announced. Bookmark the online preliminary program (http://submissions.miracd.com/hfes2009/Itinerary) for updates to the speaker list.

2009 Student Lounge Activities

By Allyson Hall, 2009 Annual Meeting Host Committee

The HFES Annual Meeting Student Lounge is devoted entirely to students and only students. This year, the lounge will host HF/E professionals from diverse organizations who will give short talks during the lunch hour about their work. Students will get a first-hand account of how HF/E principles and theories are applied in various industries and will have the opportunity to ask questions and network with these professionals before and after the presentations. Speakers include Anand Tharanathan from Honeywell, Arathi Sethumadhavan from Medtronic, and Shelby Thompson from NASA.

Students are also invited to use the lounge, located in Crockett B at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio, as a place to communicate and network with their peers in an informal setting. The space can be used to prepare for presentations and poster sessions, or simply to enjoy a comfortable, relaxing environment.

For more details on the lunch-hour sessions and other Student Lounge activities, consult the Annual Meeting’s on-site newsletter, the Riverwalk Tribune. Students, take advantage of your lounge at this year’s Annual Meeting!
Salazar to Deliver Arnold M. Small Lecture

Rebekah A. Salazar, Assistant Chief, U.S. Border Patrol, will deliver the 22nd Annual Arnold M. Small Lecture in Safety at this year’s Annual Meeting in San Antonio. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, October 21, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Salazar will discuss important safety challenges that are prevalent at the border for Border Patrol agents and those immigrants who attempt to enter the United States illegally. The environments in which Border Patrol agents operate present unique safety concerns and include vast and isolated desert, rocky and rugged terrain, snow-covered mountains, highway checkpoints, train yards, and bus stations. Salazar will identify ways that the Border Patrol is addressing these dangers and lead a discussion of additional research into designing systems and equipment that will benefit the safety of all involved.

Salazar earned her JD from Georgetown University Law Center after graduating from the University of Texas at El Paso with a BA in psychology and political science. She began her career as a Border Patrol agent in Temecula, California. Since then she has served as a supervisory Border Patrol agent in Imperial Beach, California, and El Paso, Texas. She now works in Washington, D.C. As an assistant chief she has worked in the Policy Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Congressional Affairs, and Southwest Border Operations. Salazar is immediate past president of Women in Federal Law Enforcement.

Practice-Oriented Work To Be Presented

53rd Annual Meeting attendees who are interested in practice-oriented presentations will find 80+ such lectures, posters, and panels throughout the technical program. Most of the Society’s technical groups are represented by these practice-focused works, which address issues such as the following:

- How Would You Test This? – Works-in-Progress Forum for Human Factors/Ergonomics Test and Evaluation Initiatives (Test & Evaluation, Tuesday, 1:30–3:00 p.m.)
- Teaching Human Factors/Ergonomics: A Professional Development Forum (Monday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.)
- Health Care Forum: Human Factors/Ergonomics Practical Applications to Improve Hospital Health Care Delivery Systems (Monday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.)

Daily Newsletter Items Wanted

The HFES 2009 Annual Meeting newsletter, the Riverwalk Tribune, is now accepting items for publication. 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, and retiring HFES members
- previews of panels, debates, and unique sessions
- information on student-related sessions and activities
- announcements of new academic programs
- information on technical group special sessions and business meetings
- news of upcoming events, conferences, and books of interest to attendees.

We encourage e-mail submissions before the meeting; 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 Riverwalk Tribune, please contact Newsletter Editor Allyson Hall at allyson.hall@ttu.edu.

The Riverwalk Tribune also invites exhibitors and any other interested parties to advertise in the newsletter. Contact HFES Communications Director Lois Smith at 310/394-1811, lois@hfes.org, for details.

Birds of a Feather Session: A New Health Care Research Information System

A new initiative in the process of formation will be discussed on Tuesday, October 20, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.: the Medical Research Technology Information Center (MRTIC). All interested attendees are invited.

According to organizer Mark M. Brauer, the group is being formed to eliminate unnecessary duplication in four sectors of medical/health care research: practice, procedures, pharmaceuticals, and prosthetics. This duplication affects medical offices, research laboratories, the insurance industry, government,
sponsoring philanthropies, and even academia. As an educational, nonprofit, voluntary, transparent, professionally validated data repository, MRTIC is described as a self-sustaining, nonpolitical clearinghouse for these problems across all diseases, maladies, and injuries.

For additional details, contact Mark Brauer at drmark@netscape.com.

By Raegan M. Hoeft, NEM Committee Chair

National Ergonomics Month is fast approaching, and this year we have made the NEM Web site (www.hfesnem.org) our main priority. Our goal is that the site will serve as an ongoing source of information as we get closer to October.

We have made a number of changes to the Web site, including adding an Upcoming Events section. In this section you will find information about the NEM session at the HFES Annual Meeting, which, for 2009, will feature our invited speaker, Steven M. Casey, author of Set Phasers on Stun and The Atomic Chef. We will be making frequent updates to this section to ensure it has a complete list of all 2009 NEM activities. Check http://hfesnem.org to see if your event is listed, and send us your event information so we can post it!

We have also started a list of previous NEM events, which will be added to the site soon, so if you would like us to capture your past activities on this page, please send them to me at raegan.m.hoeft@lmco.com. Our hope is that these lists will inspire others in developing NEM outreach efforts.

We have added a section dedicated to the NEM contests. In this section you will find information about the upcoming contests and the list of winners from previous years’ contests. We will also soon update the section on related presentations. The related presentations are all from HFES Annual Meeting proceedings and provide ideas for unique ways of promoting and teaching HF/E.

Finally, we have updated the related Web sites section with links to sites that contain information that may be useful for your outreach activities.

I would like to thank Daniel Nathan-Roberts, Ronald G. Shapiro, Haydee M. Cuevas, and Deborah A. Boehm-Davis for their assistance in updating the NEM Web site by providing insightful comments, recommendations, and content. I also thank HFES Production Editor Scott MacDonald for his continued support and efforts to implement the updates.

Please consider supporting NEM this year with your local and student chapters! We hope that you will find useful information on the Web site and that you’ll continue to check back for updates.

The NEM Committee is always seeking volunteers. If you are interested, please contact me at raegan.m.hoeft@lmco.com, or call 609/326-4214. Let’s make NEM 2009 an October to remember!

Imada Elected IEA President

HFES Fellow and Treasurer Andrew S. Imada was elected president of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) at the 2009 IEA Triennial Congress in Beijing in August. According to William S. Marras, chair of the HFES IEA Representatives Committee, “The entire IEA council is very excited to have Andy take over as president. He has exceptional organizational and people skills as well as the insight to take the organization to the next level. The HFES delegation to the IEA is eager to support him in every way possible.”

Imada looks forward to serving as president. “This past year every country felt the effects of a global financial crisis and globalization. Ergonomists are uniquely equipped to help organizations emerge from these conditions by improving productivity, quality, and occupational health. We can make a real difference in changing peoples’ lives, particularly in industrially developing countries,” he said.

Imada holds a PhD in industrial psychology from Ohio State University and is principal of A. S. Imada & Associates in Carmichael, California. The IEA is a global federation of human factors/ergonomics societies.

Distracted Driving Summit

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has announced a summit on distracted driving to be held in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, September 30, and Thursday, October 1. The summit is intended to determine ways to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities associated with distracted driving attributable to text messaging and other current and planned technologies intended for in-vehicle use, such as automotive navigational systems.

Participants will include senior transportation officials, elected officials, safety advocates, law enforcement representatives, private sector representatives, and academics. The second day of the summit will include a panel of state and local officials.

The summit will be available live by Web cast, and members of the public will have the opportunity to submit questions online. The Department of Transportation has set up a Web site to provide information and updates on the summit at http://www.rita.dot.gov/distracted_driving_summit/.

Erratum

On page 13 of the HFES 2009–2010 Directory & Yearbook, the list of Executive Council At-Large members should have included Ronald G. Shapiro and Eduardo Salas.
Engineering Psychology: Bordering on the Magnificent

By Peter A. Hancock, President, APA Division 21, Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology

In early August, the American Psychological Association (APA) held its annual convention in Toronto, Canada. Embedded in this larger meeting was the gathering of Division 21, Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology. This article provides a brief report of that meeting and some opportunities that have arisen from this gathering.

The meeting had great intrinsic value independent of its attractive setting. Division 21 began with a timely symposium on issues concerned with health in the home. Organized by past HFES President Wendy A. Rogers, it featured a number of speakers who addressed the burgeoning HF/E issues associated with health care beyond traditional health facilities. Sara J. Czaja’s exposition on trust of online resources, especially by older individuals, was particularly timely.

One advantage of Division 21 is the extended lecture format, and this was evidenced in the highly informative presentation by Nancy J. Cooke, the current editor of Human Factors. Her invited presentation dealt in detail with unmanned aerial vehicle operations and the ways in which more recent theorizing on situated team performance influenced such remote operations. It was a tour de force in how theory could drive practice and vice versa.

The session that followed featured two award winners: Frank A. Drews (recipient of the Division 21 Alluisi Award for early career achievement) spoke on HF/E issues associated with medical error in medical systems. Anne C. McLaughlin (winner of the Division 21 Briggs Dissertation Award) talked of her experimental work associated with individual differences, a vastly underserved topic, as a recent special issue of Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Science has explored.

This year’s presidential address was delivered by outgoing President Scott A. Shappell, who recounted his extensive experience in promoting systems safety with a special focus on aviation issues.

The second day of offerings began with Ronald G. Shapiro, who demonstrated the pedagogical attraction of using games to teach HF/E. This was followed by Frank A. Drews (recipient of the Division 21 Alluisi Award for early career achievement) spoke on HF/E issues associated with medical devices and especially the role of interruptions in the propensity for error in medical systems. Anne C. McLaughlin (winner of the Division 21 Briggs Dissertation Award) talked of her experimental work associated with individual differences, a vastly underserved topic, as a recent special issue of Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Science has explored.

The symposium that followed was directed toward what psychology can contribute to HF/E. This meeting once again showed that the HF/E field cannot afford to be divorced from either of its parent disciplines. As the larger entities, both engineering and psychology are naturally taken up with their own fundamental concerns. It remains incumbent upon those of us in the interstitial regions between respective fiefdoms to constantly affirm our importance. If we are to affect the design, manufacture, and use of current and forthcoming technologies, then a constant and lively dialogue must be sustained between our interdisciplinary diaspora and those who see themselves as keepers of the respective “true faiths.” Division 21 is proud to serve this function and once again extends free membership to students who would like to be affiliated with the group.

Communications Director Wins SSP President-Elect Title

HFES Communications Director Lois Smith was recently elected president-elect of the Society for Scholarly Publishing. She began her term in June. An active SSP member for more than 20 years, Lois was at-large member of the Board of Directors, chair of the Membership Committee, cochair of the Education Committee and 2005 and 2009 Annual Meeting Program Committees, and managing editor of SSP News. Lois joined the HFES staff in 1987.

SSP, founded in 1978, is a nonprofit organization formed to promote and advance communication among all sectors of the scholarly publication community through networking, information dissemination, and facilitation of new developments in the field. SSP has approximately 950 members.
Publications Survey Coming Soon

The HFES Publications Committee will soon open the final major member survey of 2009, the Communications and Publications Survey. The committee seeks information about members’ satisfaction levels with the Society’s publications and communications, as well as comments and suggestions.

Watch for an e-mail reminder and instructions soon.

Member Milestones

In June, Anita D’Amico testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Research and Science Education on cyber security research and development. D’Amico, a human factors psychologist and information security specialist, is director of the Secure Decisions division of Applied Visions, Inc. She may be reached at anitad@avi.com.

In July, Richard Gutierrez celebrated 30 years of service with GE Energy in the analysis, design, implementation, and testing of human factors for the GE Advance Boiling Water Reactor. He may be reached at Richard1.Gutierrez@GE.com.

HFES Fellow Joel S. Warm is this year’s recipient of the Franklin V. Taylor Award from Division 21 on Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology of the American Psychological Association. The prestigious Taylor Award is given for outstanding contributions to the field of applied experimental and engineering psychology. Warm may be reached at jswarm@fuse.net.

Calendar

Announcement deadlines: First day of the month prior to the desired issue; for events or deadlines within the first three weeks of a month, send information at least two months in advance. Items are published according to space availability. The full Event Calendar is available at http://hfes.org.


★ 50th Israel Annual Conference on Aerospace Sciences, February 17–18, 2010, Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv, Israel and Technion Campus, Haifa, Israel, http://www.aeroconf.org.il.


★ Indicates new listing
Volume 5
Coming Soon!

The HFES annual series, *Reviews of Human Factors and Ergonomics*, condenses HF/E knowledge in specific subject areas into a form that provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of each topic — its current state, important new research findings and technology, and current issues and research needs. Chapters note ways in which research results inform theory or methodology for future research and also emphasize the practical implications of the research that is reviewed. Chapter authors are among the most prominent HF/E professionals in their respective subject areas. Reviews volumes are broader in scope than handbooks and deeper in detail than encyclopedias. They are designed to inform both researchers and practitioners. All chapters include extensive references.

**Volume 5 Contents**

Preface: Use-Inspired Basic Research — Francis T. Durso
Chapter 1. Performance in Nursing — Patricia R. Delucia, Tammy E. Ott, & Patrick A. Palmieri
Chapter 2. Human Factors of Information Visualization — George Robertson, Mary Czerwinski, Danyel Fisher, & Bongshin Lee
Chapter 3. Aviation Automation: General Perspectives and Specific Guidance for the Design of Modes and Alerts — Amy R. Pritchett
Chapter 4. Intercepting Moving Objects: Fundamental Principles Learned From Baseball — Rob Gray
Chapter 5. Expertise: Acquisition, Limitations, and Control — Stephan Lewandowsky & Jacqueline L. Thomas
Chapter 6. Principles for Designing Effective and Efficient Training of Complex Cognitive Skills — Fred Paas & Tamara van Gog
Chapter 7. Augmented Cognition: An Overview — Kay Stanney, Dylan Schmorrow, Matthew Johnston, Sven Fuchs, David Jones, Kelly Hale, Ali Ahmad, & Peter Young
Chapter 8. Human Performance Modeling — Michael Byrne & Richard Pew

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