Building Bridges to the Future of HF/E

By Mica R. Endsley, HFES President

As we get ready to convene in Boston for this year’s Annual Meeting, I’m reminded of how much HFES is doing to address issues that our members care about. Working together, HFES is taking a strong, proactive role in monitoring and providing inputs on the many issues facing our profession. In this article are a few examples I’d like to share.

External Outreach Focus

Working with the Federation of Associations in Brain and Behavioral Sciences (FABBS), HFES has signed on to letters going to Congress urging support for funding of the sciences—a key issue in today’s budgetary world. FABBS is also featuring HF/E success stories in a publication aimed at Capitol Hill, showing how beneficial investments in related programs and research are for achieving very real and measurable improvements in cost savings, productivity, and everyday lives.

The Society worked with the Association of American Publishers to object to major proposed legislation that would have required all research funded by government agencies to be published only in open-access journals. This would have had significant ramifications for other quality scientific journals like Human Factors.

Working with the American Psychological Association, HFES provided input on the biggest change to the Common Rule since its inception. The Common Rule governs all federally sponsored research on human subjects.

In addition, a special meeting focusing on developing strategies to maintain critical student funding in the face of projected decreases in federal funding for research and graduate student support will be held at the Annual Meeting. “Combating U.S. Decreases in Graduate Program Funding” will be presented on Thursday, October 25, in the Faneuil Room from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Internal Focus

HFES is also strengthening internal operations. All our divisions have developed strategic plans for guiding operations. Under the leadership of Patricia DeLucia, HFES has revitalized its accreditation program, working with universities to renew their accreditation or apply for the first time. A task force was created to update the HFES Web site, and a new design competition will be announced for next year. The Council of Technical Groups has launched a program for supporting student attendance at the Annual Meeting, and the Chapter
Affairs Committee is developing programs to support new chapter officers and strengthen our local presence.

As a significant new strategic initiative, HFES created the Special Meetings Committee to help vet and promote conferences, workshops, and other meetings of interest to members. Following on the successful launch of the HFES Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care in 2012, we will be continuing this symposium again in 2013. In addition, HFES will cosponsor, with IEEE, the 2013 International Symposium on Resilient Cognitive, Control, & Cyber Systems. We are also strengthening our National Ergonomics Month outreach activities, launching an online brochure to help people consider HF/E issues when buying consumer products such as a computer printer (thanks to Stan Caplan and Ron Shapiro for their work on this).

These are just a few highlights of the many ongoing programs that HFES is pursuing to provide greater value to our members in addition to our many other highly visible member benefits, such as the leading publications in our field, a top-notch placement service, the ongoing work of our tireless standards committees, and, as always, the excellent Annual Meeting put on by our Technical Program Committee and our TG program chairs. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who are working on our behalf to do all this and much more.

Focus on the Future of the Profession

In addition to these current efforts, we need to chart the way toward where HF/E needs to be growing as a profession in the future. With more than five decades of existence, HFES is well past its infancy and into adolescence. But have we grown up yet? At this point, we seem to be more like the 25-year-old still living in his parents’ basement. Our profession remains stymied by our lack of cohesion, as some of us cope with being the “applied” people in basic psychology programs, whereas others are considered overly “soft” in engineering programs. Still others are distributed as ones or twos in programs that range from medicine to occupational therapy to business. In industry we can find ourselves thrown in almost anywhere in the organizational chart and as part of a wide variety of other activities and professions.

Although this diversity is great in many ways in terms of providing a broad, multidisciplinary perspective on the many problems we tackle, it also creates real challenges for our profession. We have overall poor brand recognition in the marketplace, with prospective students, employers, and the consumers of and customers for our work often being completely unaware of our existence, despite our great track record in so many domains.

To make real inroads into the systems engineering design process, human-systems engineering needs to be clearly recognized along with other engineering professions as a key participant in the development of system requirements, as contributors during the system design process, and as a mandatory requirement for system test and validation. To meet this objective, the time has come for us to move out of our parents’ basements and into a place of our own, where robust instructional programs can include not only the firm foundation of good research but also the skills needed to translate good science into engineering practice in the many industries and settings where HF/E is practiced.

I’ll be talking more during the Annual Meeting about what such programs need to look like and the advantages of coming together in a new model that provides HF/E with the structure it needs to have an impact in the marketplace.
We have the science and we have the skills. The future of human factors/ergonomics lies in bringing these abilities together in a cohesive way to affect how we provide education and research in university settings and, consequently, how other managers and engineers in the workplace will view and understand what we do.

Strategically, I believe that is where the future of HF/E lies and how we can overcome many of our current challenges. Getting there will rely on our ability to demonstrate the value of this approach to the many stakeholders involved. But that is what being a grown-up profession is all about.

ANNUAL MEETING

Pediatric Cardiologist To Present Keynote

On Tuesday, October 23, Kathy Jenkins, MD, MPH, of Children’s Hospital Boston, will present “Human Factors and Health Care: Perspective of a Pediatric Cardiologist and Safety Leader” during the Opening Plenary Session.

In her presentation, Jenkins will describe why the healthcare delivery system required to diagnose and treat infants and children with congenital heart disease is among the most complex in modern medicine. Parts of the system must operate nearly perfectly in order to ensure survival without major morbidity.

Accomplishing this requires complex teams made up of members having highly specialized individual skills. Additionally, reparative strategies and maintaining cardiovascular stability before, during, and after procedures are highly dependent on technology. Clinical complexity, lack of evidence-based treatments, and multiple sources of information require substantial data integration and cognitive processing.

Jenkins will draw from her experience in caring for infants and children with congenital heart disease to illustrate how these issues intertwine in modern medical practice and how important human factors is on the part of both those delivering and receiving care in driving health outcomes. She will give an overview of hospitals’ strategies for improving care delivery and reducing patient harm, and also what she sees as the most important unsolved problems.

Jenkins is senior associate in the Cardiology Department at Children’s Hospital Boston and an associate professor. She oversees the clinical trials of new devices, such as CardioSEAL and STARFlex, which are implanted by catheter to correct atrial septal defect, ventral septal defect, fontan fenestration, patent ductus arteriosus, and other congenital malformations of the heart. She works closely with interventional cardiologists, institutional review boards, device manufacturers, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ensure that trials are conducted properly. Jenkins received her MD from Harvard Medical School and her MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. She completed an internship, residency, and fellowship at Children’s Hospital Boston.

Book Your Hotel Room Today

Rooms at the Hyatt Harborside Hotel are available at the special group rate of $259/night single or double occupancy. (Only double rooms are available, and the hotel requires a non-refundable prepayment at the time the reservation is made.) This rate is available only until OCTOBER 5. The Hyatt Harborside is
conveniently located 3.4 miles from the Weston Boston Waterfront and can be accessed by water-taxi transportation. The Hyatt also has complimentary airport shuttle service.

The Mobile App is Coming

HFES once again offers a mobile program app for use on iPhones, iPads, and Android devices. Available through Guidebook, the app allows users to see the full week’s schedule of events and plan their own personal schedule, learn about the vendors in the Galleria Exhibit Hall, follow the HFES Twitter feed (@HFES2012), view a facility map, and provide feedback. The app will be available by October 15; go to the iTunes Store or the Android App Marketplace and select the Guidebook mobile program.

COTG Student Travel Honorarium Program Is a Success

By David Kaber, Chair, Council of Technical Groups

As reported in the August issue of the HFES Bulletin, the Council of Technical Groups (COTG) recently implemented a new Student Travel Honorarium Program (STHP). The program is designed to facilitate participation of student lecturers and poster presenters at each year’s Annual Meeting through awarding $700 of travel support to 12 students. The COTG provides 75% of the funding, and the rest comes from TGs that are hosting a poster or presentation by the student recipient.

For the 2012 Annual Meeting, the STHP Committee (Michael Byrne, Douglas Gardner, Jennifer Riley, and myself) received and reviewed 20 applications. We looked at all program requirements and rated each application on the strength of the applicant’s essay, financial need, and level of prior involvement in HFES. Applications were scored and ranked, and the top 12 applications were selected for support. (Because of a tie between two applications for the 12th slot, this year the STHP will award 13 honoraria.)

Funds for the 2012 Annual Meeting go to the following individuals (the technical group/s hosting each presentation is shown in parentheses): Onar Asan (Health Care), Shi Cao (Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making; Human Performance Modeling), Jing Chen (Perception and Performance), Kimberly Culley (Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making), Christian Gonzalez (Surface Transportation; Product Design), Jung Hyup Kim (Virtual Environments), Lenore Page (Industrial Ergonomics), Gemma Read (Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making), Farzan Sasangohar (Health Care), Ben Sawyer (Surface Transportation), Joel Suss (Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making), Joey Chung Yin So (Training), and Ganyun Sun (Product Design; Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making). All honoraria are provided via the student’s home institution as a gift to be distributed by the department or university.

We expect that the STHP will continue through the support of the COTG and all TGs, provided that funding remains available. All student members of HFES with an accepted lecture or poster submission are strongly encouraged to apply in future years. The COTG looks forward to receiving applications for the
2013 Annual Meeting in San Diego. Information will be posted on the HFES Web site and through an e-mail to the student list server regarding when applications will be invited.

**Interview Space 80% Booked for On-Site Career Center**

Share this information if your company is planning to hire soon!

The HFES On-Site Career Center provides an outstanding opportunity for employers and job seekers to meet informally and in prearranged interviews. Subscribers to the HFES online Career Center may reserve booths, tables, or both at the On-Site Career Center. Download the reservation form or contact HFES at 310/394-1811, placement@hfes.org.

In order to reserve a booth and/or table, employers must have a current job posting or be registered to search résumés in the Online Career Center during the Annual Meeting and your company can benefit from a price sensitive one-month job posting. The scheduling of formal or informal interviews at the Annual Meeting is the sole responsibility of the prospective employer.

Candidates looking for a job or seeking new career opportunities are encouraged to post their résumés and search for jobs in the Career Center on the HFES Web site. This service is for HFES members only.

The Career Center hours for the 2012 Annual Meeting are Monday, October 22, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, October 23–24, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Thursday, October 25, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you plan to be available for interviews at the Annual Meeting, bring copies of your résumé to the meeting and visit the Online Career Center to see a listing of employers conducting interviews during the Annual Meeting. Check back often, as this list will be updated frequently.

**INSIDE HFES**

**National Ergonomics Month Is Here!**

*By Joseph R. Keebler, Cochair, NEM Committee*

October is here, and that means it’s National Ergonomics Month (NEM)—now in its tenth year! Have you participated in NEM events in the past? If not, there’s no time like the present to get started. This month, the NEM Committee will once again host the NEM Expo at the Annual Meeting. We are always looking for presenters, so if you have a good idea, let us know and we’ll try to accommodate you.

Over the last decade, NEM volunteers throughout the Society have focused on four audiences: the media, corporate and government leaders, educators, and students. We are in a time of great change, and we all need to look toward the future of HF/E and spreading knowledge about the field. If you have already conducted NEM activities in the past, or are planning an event for 2012, we applaud your commitment to human factors/ergonomics. If you haven’t considered participating or developing your own NEM activities, we hope that you will be inspired this year to take the next step. Now, more than ever, HF/E needs to be realized in the eyes of the public, government, and private sectors for its positive impact on developing technology. We strive to do this through NEM activities,
but only through the contributions of those of you who keep HF/E going year-round can we continue to thrive.

Preparing for Boston

We had two excellent submissions for NEM Best Action Plan, from Purdue University and Wichita State University. We hope that more schools participate next year for this award. Because of the quality of the submissions and the fact that there were only two, we are pleased to award both chapters for their action plans. Congratulations to both groups!

Visit the NEM Expo in the Harbor Ballroom Foyer (Conference Level) of the Westin Boston Waterfront on Monday, October 22, from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. See our contest winners, pick up an NEM puzzle (and maybe some for your friends), and discuss the future of HF/E with me and Alan. Thank you, and see you all in Boston!

Introducing the Special Meetings Committee

By Barrett Caldwell, Chair, and Raegan Hoeft, Member, Special Meetings Committee

Have you ever wondered how or why HFES decides to cosponsor an event or to develop events other than the Annual Meeting? Do you know how the 2012 Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care came to fruition? Have you ever wanted to propose an event focused on a specific topic that you hoped HFES would support but you weren’t sure how to start the process?

If you have ever asked yourself any of these questions, you are not alone. The Special Meetings Committee (SMC) was formed to handle these and related topics. Specifically, the SMC is tasked with facilitating the process of identifying and recommending topics for the development or cosponsorship of conferences, symposia, workshops, or other events beyond the Annual Meeting.

Cosponsoring or developing new events is not a trivial process, especially when it includes coordinating with other organizations. Factors that must be taken into account include basic logistics of location, scheduling, and promoting. Additionally, the value of the event must be considered, including the relationship with the other organization (if applicable), the opportunities for professional development, the relevance of the content, and even the financial impact of the event.

Given the complexity of this process, the SMC’s first task was to compile existing materials and develop an integrated template that identifies all the factors that need to be addressed for HFES to make an informed decision about sponsorship of an event. The template will provide the foundation for both the information requirements needed to submit a proposal and the proposal submission process.

In addition, the SMC is tasked with specifying sponsorship categories that represent an agreed-on hierarchy of distinct categories of HFES management and sponsorship for the Society’s involvement in various types of events. This hierarchy will provide guidance for decision makers and proposal submitters.

Finally, the SMC is planning to conduct a survey of HFES members and Annual Meeting attendees to identify potential opportunities for cosponsored events (including both topics and affiliated professional societies). This will enable committee members to understand the types of events that members would be interested in attending. Please look for a survey to come out just after the An-
Kleiner to Present Webinar on Macroergonomics

On October 10, Brian M. Kleiner, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, will present the webinar, “Macroergonomic Attributes of Safe and Unsafe Systems: An Introduction and Tribute to Dr. Bentzi Karsh.” Members can register at no charge. The webinar will take place at the following times:

9:30-11:00 a.m. Pacific
10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon Mountain
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Central
12:30-2:00 p.m. Eastern

About the Webinar
Macroergonomics offers a perspective as well as methods and tools for more successful human factors/ergonomics design, development, intervention, and implementation. In addition, it relates directly to human-systems integration efforts. In this webinar, Kleiner will provide a general introduction and brief history. From its foundational research roots in the sociotechnical systems tradition to modern laboratory and field investigations of the relationships among the sociotechnical system elements, new scientific knowledge about work systems and work system design has emerged, including characteristics of safe versus unsafe systems.

Macroergonomics has been shown to influence a wide range of performance, from individual health and safety to large-scale organizational culture and performance. In honor of the late Bentzi Karsh, Kleiner will provide examples from health care, Bentzi’s domain of focus. He will also include examples from the construction industry to demonstrate the robustness of macroergonomics.

About the Presenter
Brian M. Kleiner is director of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction and the Bogle Professor Fellow of industrial and systems engineering in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech. He received his master’s degree and PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo, studying under Colin G. Drury. A member of the Virginia Tech community since 1991, Kleiner has developed and taught innovative courses in industrial and systems engineering and has established a world-class research program in the analysis and design of work systems and work systems interfaces, with a specialization in macro-, or systems, ergonomics.

Kleiner also works in sociotechnical systems, function allocation in automation and systems design, safety, health, and performance management. Kleiner has advised more than 35 graduate students, has authored or coauthored more than 125 peer-reviewed papers, and has participated in more than $10 million in funded research projects. As director of the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, Kleiner oversees one of the newest schools at Virginia Tech, which is a
joint venture between the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the College of Engineering.

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 here. Please bookmark and check the HFES Webinars home page for updates on this and future 2012 webinars!

FABBS Seeks Nominees for New Early Career Investigator Award

The FABBS Foundation welcomes nominations for the Early Career Investigator Award, which recognizes early-career scientists of FABBS member societies (first 10 years post-PhD) who have made major contributions to sciences of mind, brain, and behavior.

The goal of this award is to enhance public visibility of research in these sciences through the dissemination efforts of the FABBS Foundation’s science writer in collaboration with the member societies and award winners. Nominations are encouraged for individuals who have made outstanding research contributions, especially those who have also increased awareness of science through outreach activities to the public (e.g., community talks, high school demos) or communication with the media (interviews, blogs, etc.). Nominees must be members in good standing of HFES.

A 3-year rotation scheme of nominees has been established so that all FABBS member societies have equal representation of scientists who receive this award. An award will be given to one early-career scientist in each member society that participates, using a randomly determined rotation scheme. HFES may submit nominees for the 2013 award.

The application form and other details about the award are available on the FABBS Foundation Web site. Please send the completed nomination application form, current vitae, and a minimum of two letters of support to HFES Executive Director Lynn Strother (lynn@hfes.org) by November 1, 2012.

MEMBER MILESTONES

Carol Stuart-Buttle

The Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics (BCPE) has announced the selection of HFES Fellow Carol Stuart-Buttle as its new part-time executive director. She is only the second individual to fill this position since 1998.

Carol is a past BCPE director, a Fellow of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and a past Secretary-Treasurer of HFES. She was recently appointed to a second term as editor in chief of Ergonomics in Design. She will be working with the BCPE Board to set and implement the organization’s strategic plan and will divide her time between BCPE and her consulting practice, Stuart-Buttle Ergonomics. Carol may be contacted by e-mail.
In Memoriam: Thomas Triggs
By Errol Hoffmann

Born in 1938, Thomas Triggs died on September 7, 2012. Tom studied aeronautical engineering at the University of Sydney and completed his PhD under Paul Fitts at the University of Michigan.

Tom worked in a variety of fields during his career but is possibly best known for his research in the field of automobile safety. As well, Tom had involvement in research on aviation safety, driver and pilot performance, and other operational environments. For some time he was head of the Department of Psychology at Monash University and deputy director of the Monash University Accident Research Center. During his long career in human factors, he also worked at Bolt, Beranek, and Newman in Boston and at Battelle in Seattle, where for a time he was director of the Human Factors and Organisation Effectiveness Research Center.

Tom is survived by his wife and two children. He will be missed by his family, friends, and all those with whom he worked in the field of human factors.

OTHER NEWS

UPA China 2012 User Friendly Conference

The Usability Professionals Association of China is hosting a conference whose goal is to help build and shape an environment that is imperative to the development of knowledgeable UX professionals. It will be held in Beijing on November 9–11. Details are available on the conference Web site.

CALENDAR

November 2012


The Department of Industrial Engineering at Clemson University is conducting a search for tenured or tenure-track faculty positions at the assistant or associate professor level. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in industrial engineering or a related discipline.

We seek candidates who have outstanding communication skills and demonstrated potential to conduct scholarship that has impact, teach effectively, and develop a research program that attracts extramural research funding. Applications are encouraged from candidates with research interests that align with our thrust areas of Supply Chain Optimization & Logistics and Human Factors. In particular, applicants with a demonstrated ability to blend theoretical approaches with real-world problems in industry are encouraged to apply.

Clemson is a public, land grant university in South Carolina with more than 15,000 undergraduate and 3,800 graduate and professional students. The Department of Industrial Engineering currently has 11 full-time faculty members and a student population of 200 undergraduate students, 35 on-campus master’s students, and 35 doctoral students. In addition, there are 120 students enrolled in an online master of engineering program. The Department is home to 2 National Science Foundation centers and several statewide institutes. Research expenditures last year were approximately $2.5M.

Interested applicants are invited to send their curriculum vitae, a brief statement of their research interests and accomplishments, a list of courses they have taught and wish to teach, and the names of three references to:

William G. Ferrell, Jr., Search Chair
110 Freeman Hall
Box 340920
Clemson, SC  29634-0920
fwillia@clemson.edu

All applications materials received by November 1, 2012 will receive full consideration; however, the search will continue until suitable candidates are found.

Clemson University is building a culturally diverse faculty committed to working in a multicultural environment and encourages applications from minorities and women. Clemson University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any individual or group of individuals on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status or genetic information.
The Department of Industrial and Operations Engineering at the University of Michigan invites applications and nominations for faculty positions beginning September, 2013.

We seek outstanding candidates for faculty positions in the areas of Human Factors and Ergonomics at all levels and in Discrete Event Simulation at all levels. Applicants in research areas including cognitive and physical ergonomics, and system safety are encouraged to apply, as are applicants with research and teaching interests in simulation modeling and analysis.

Candidates must have a Ph.D. and must demonstrate a strong commitment to high-quality research and evidence of teaching potential. Experience related to manufacturing and/or service operations is desirable. Candidates for Associate or Full Professor should have a commensurate record of research publications and are expected to provide organizational and research leadership, develop sources of external funding, build relationships with industry, and interact with faculty colleagues.

Candidates should provide (i) a current C.V., (ii) a list of references, and one page summary statements describing: (iii) career teaching plans; and (iv) research plans. Candidates should have their references send recommendations to us directly at IOEFacultySearch@umich.edu. The deadline for ensuring full consideration of an application is November 1, 2012, but the positions will remain open and applications may still be considered, at the discretion of the hiring committee, until appointments are made.

We seek candidates who will provide inspiration and leadership in research and actively contribute to teaching. We are especially interested in candidates who can contribute, through their research, teaching and/or service, to the diversity and excellence of the academic community. The University of Michigan is responsive to the needs of dual career families.

Please submit your application to the following:

Web:  http://ioe.engin.umich.edu/people/fac/fac_search/

If you have any questions regarding the web application submittal process or other inquiries, please contact, Gwendolyn Brown at ggbrown@umich.edu or (734) 763-1332.

The University of Michigan is a non-discriminatory, affirmative action employer.
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
56th Annual Meeting

October 22–26, 2012
Westin Boston Waterfront
Boston, Massachusetts USA

Featuring:
- Hands-on workshops
- 100+ technical sessions covering up-to-date research and applications on a broad range of human factors/ergonomics areas
- Keynote address
- Student Forum session track
- Interactive posters and demonstrations
- Technical site tours
- On-Site Career Center

Bookmark hfes.org for regular updates about:
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- Viewing the Preliminary Program and creating a personal meeting itinerary
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