



Puget Sound Human Factors & Ergonomics Society

Spring 2005 Newsletter

www.pshfes.org

President's Message

Greetings PSHFES members and friends!

I hope our Spring 2005 newsletter finds you well and happy! I'm writing to you from sunny California, where my employer, The Boeing Company, is sponsoring a company-wide Ergonomics Technical Exchange. Ergonomics practitioners from Boeing sites across North America come together and share information, best practices, successes, and even failures as we work to improve the production processes for our company.

The ergonomics practitioners at Boeing include ergonomists, safety professionals, industrial hygienists, shop supervisors, vocational rehabilitation counselors, ergonomics team members and union stewards. We come from all walks of life and backgrounds, and we bring our own unique perspectives to the Exchange. We've found that this annual gathering is an invaluable method for sharing and learning, and achieving success toward our goals. How do you share your successes within your company, your industry, or our profession? Who do you have as a mentor, partner, or colleague to bounce ideas off of and learn from? I'd love to hear what members do to stay informed of the latest information and trends; please drop me a line if you have any unique or interesting ways that you stay in touch with others in your profession.

PSHFES hopes to serve as a conduit to the local community of hard-working Human Factors and Ergonomics practitioners. Recent society events, such as the tour of Boeing-Everett and our guest speaker Chris Hamrick from the Ohio State Worker's Compensation Bureau, as well as upcoming events such as our tour of the Washington State Liquor Control Board Distribution Center (please see page two for more information) are the mechanisms that your Society's officers are using to keep you connected. We're working on *another* national speaker in the coming months, and of course, our annual Symposium is the big event of the year! Mark your calendars now for October 18 and 19 at the Radisson Hotel in Seatac, WA.

So, please, take a minute and think back on your past year. What have you accomplished and learned that others might want to know? What breakthroughs in technology, or unique approaches to problem-solving have you successfully employed? What problems do you still encounter that others might be able to help you with? If you have ideas for Symposium presentations, workshops, or break-out sessions, please let us know. I believe each of you has something valuable to share with the PSHFES community, and I sincerely hope that you'll consider participating in this year's PSHFES Symposium. Thank you and I hope to see you soon!

Amy

Amy May, CPE

president@pshfes.org

Call for Symposium Presentations

Planning for the 2005 PSHFES Symposium is in full swing, and we invite you to submit ideas for engaging Symposium sessions.

This year's event is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18 -19. If you'd like to give a presentation, facilitate a workshop or moderate a panel discussion, please submit a brief abstract for your topic of interest to president@pshfes.org

The deadline for submissions is Monday, August 1st, 2005.

Please help us make the 2005 Symposium a success by sharing your knowledge and skills with fellow professionals.

*Upcoming Event***Tour the Liquor Control Board Distribution Center***Only members can sign up for this exclusive event*

Wednesday, June 15

11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*The tour will start promptly; please check in with Security no later than 11:15 a.m.*Washington State Liquor Control Board
4401 East Marginal Way South, Seattle

Please join us for a tour of the Washington State Liquor Control Board Distribution Center. The first 30 people to RSVP will see various stages of product handling in the warehouse, including manual loading of cases onto a conveyor system, pick to light system, order picking in highbay storage with narrow aisles and the de-palletization process. If you want to view the mechanical portions of the system, please bring sturdy shoes such as tennis shoes, a hard hat and hearing protection if you are sensitive to loud (but below WISHA threshold) environments.

Please RSVP Deborah Read at program@pshfes.org by June 10. Call with emergency or late cancellation at (206) 919-2932. The Distribution Center is a large mustard-colored building with green-tinted windows and the roof is shaped in an arch fashion. There is a large green highway sign in the parking lot that says "Liquor Control Board." See you there!

Volunteers Needed: Ergonomics at the Governor's Safety and Health Conference

Every year, the University of Washington's School-to-Work program hosts about 100 high school students at a special half-day session on a safety and health topic during the Governor's Safety and Health Conference. Last year's emphasis was on ergonomics, and it was so popular that we've been invited to participate in this year's event. The conference will be Sept. 28 and 29 at the brand new Tacoma Convention Center, with the student program taking place the morning of the first day. **We're looking for volunteers to help plan and lead breakout activities for the students.** Last year's activities ranged from grip strength testing to product design prototyping, and we'd like to offer a similar variety of activities this year. If you'd like to help out, please get in touch with Rick Goggins at pastpresident@pshfes.org.



Web Site of the Month

<http://www.mmh.com>

Since our next PSHFES tour will focus on materials handling at the WA State Liquor Board Distribution Center, *Modern Materials Handling* seems like an appropriate choice for Web site of the Month.

Where have you been surfing?

If you know of a great HF/E web site, please send it to secretary@pshfes.org to have it included in the next PSHFES newsletter.



Event Recaps

Chris Hamrick Informs and Entertains at April PSHFES Dinner Meeting

Thank you to all who attended the April 11 PSHFES dinner at Hale's Ales in Seattle. The presenter, Christopher Hamrick, is a delightful and brilliant person with a terrific sense of humor and unsurpassed pride for his home state of Ohio. Putting his talents to good use, Chris gave us a lively presentation on a study devised to determine lifting limits for those with back injuries. The study, partially funded by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation was titled "Workplace Design Guidelines for Asymptomatic vs. Low-Back-Injured Workers." (Please contact program@pshfes.org for handout material and/or the full study that was published in *Applied Ergonomics*).

Chris's resume is impressive. He is currently Ergonomics Technical Advisor, Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Division of Safety & Hygiene, where he is responsible for ergonomic projects and technical consultation. Prior to joining BWC, Chris was Director of Ergonomic Services for CNA Risk Management in Chicago, where he provided ergonomics consulting services to clients. From 1989 to 1995, Chris worked for the U.S. Bureau of Mines (now NIOSH) in Pittsburgh, PA as an Industrial Engineer, where he performed research directed toward reducing the risk of injury in the mining industry by

using ergonomic methodologies and principles. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Ohio State University. Chris is a Certified Professional Ergonomist and is currently serving as a Director on the Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics. He is also a member of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society and is a Senior Member of the Institute of Industrial Engineers.

Boeing Tour Highlights Manufacturing Ergonomic Improvements

On Tuesday, March 15, about a dozen PSHFES members toured the Everett Boeing plant site to view the latest ergonomic improvements to help employees more safely build the 747, 767, and 777 commercial airplanes. The tour began with a look in the Materials and Process Technology (M&PT) labs where a portable, low-cost drilling system called FlexTrack is being developed and tested. The FlexTrack system will provide one shot hole drilling/countersinking on flexible rails that match the contour of the curved surfaces on the airplane skin which will reduce repetitive activity, and subsequently shoulder/arm injury, in mechanics. Next, the group looked at the 747 spar gantry drill plate hoist, a Coleman equipment pallet jack mounted with a manipulator arm and air balancing hoist, which was obtained to eliminate 2 mechanics from having to manually lift heavy drill plates (100+ pounds) from the storage area onto the Spar tool, causing numerous back and shoulder strains. In the 777 production area, the group viewed various lifting devices used to lift and load heavy seats (up to 800 pounds), galleys, lavatories and spiral staircase modules. The tour concluded with a peak at the not-yet-opened, expanded ergonomics crib. The new ergonomics crib which in the past has provided mechanics access to try-out various types of ergonomic equipment, including gloves, mats, and chairs, will soon also provide a solutions center to help mechanics and ergonomics teams with cost effective solution development assistance.

*We hope to see you at our June 15 tour of the Washington State Liquor Control Board!
And we are considering trying something new during the summer: a breakfast meeting.*

Professional Development Opportunities

The Elements of User Experience Workshop - PSHFES Members Eligible for 20% Discount

June 9, 2005

Seattle Art Museum (100 University Street)

Using his well known Elements of User Experience and Nine Pillars of Successful Web Teams models, Jesse James Garrett will address a wide array of issues that marketers, web teams, and product developers face through clear explanations and vivid illustrations that unite branding, usability, interaction design, and information architecture under the umbrella of user experience design. Workshop tuition is \$395; PSHFES members are eligible for a 20% discount if code AP03 is used during registration. A limited number of scholarships are available to employees of not-for-profit organizations.

<http://www.adaptivepath.com/events/2005/june/>

Brand-Driven Information Architecture

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Adobe (801 N. 34th St. in the Fremont neighborhood of Seattle)

Brand strategy may influence your information architecture structure in ways you haven't anticipated. In this presentation sponsored by Puget Sound SIGCHI, Jesse James Garrett, founding partner of Adaptive Path, examines the often-overlooked intersection where brand marketing and information architecture converge.

<http://www.adaptivepath.com/events/workshops/>

HFES 49th Annual Meeting

September 26 - 30, 2005

Orlando, Florida

<http://hfes.org/Meetings/05annualmeeting.html>

Eastern Ergonomics Conference and Exhibition

June 21 - 23, 2005

New York City, New York

http://www.ergoexpo.com/2004EECE/descriptions_new.asp

Ergonomic Roundtable

July 8, 2005

Weyerhaeuser

The relationships between industrial engineering and ergonomics will be discussed at this forum. In addition, organizers will introduce a new activity, "Case Studies," which allow roundtable members to submit a real-life problem that the group will tackle in a structured session. For more information, please email presidentelect@pshfes.org

Ergonomic Roundtable

October 14, 2005

Location TBA

This roundtable session will focus on reference sharing, including paper and electronic media. Bring your favorite references. For more information, please email presidentelect@pshfes.org



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