



Puget Sound Human Factors & Ergonomics Society

November 2006 Newsletter

www.pshfes.org

President's Message

Good day all,

The chapter held its annual Symposium on Thursday, October 12, and Friday, October 13 at the Museum of Flight. I want to take a few words to reflect on the event.

Our keynote speaker was Peter Budnick, the creator and CEO of Ergoweb. His message to us was that the craft and science of ergonomics and human factors is necessary to the health of industry but poorly understood and communicated to the public and the business community. He challenged us as an organization to be part of the solution. His words seemed to carry over into the panel discussion later in the morning in which Arnie Lund, Ed Stevens, Ben Zavitz, Steve Hecker and Rob Fontaine explained how they defined human factors and ergonomics in terms of the work they do. Each role was unique, and each was a valuable application of the science.



Peter Budnick delivers the Symposium keynote speech.

Friday's workshops were well attended. The morning workshop, "Analysis Methods as Problem-Solving Tools," was taught by perennial favorite Rick Goggins and Dr. Stephen Bao. The afternoon workshop, taught by Ben Zavitz, was "High Impact Ergonomics: Getting Results and Demonstrating Value to Achieve Long Term Sustainability." The main criticism of both workshops was that there wasn't enough time for each. That is the kind of feedback we need in order to meet your needs in coming years. Overall, however, the Symposium evaluations revealed that attendees were impressed with the variety and the quality of the presentations. And, they liked the food.

Our thanks again go to all the speakers and sponsors for this year's event. I believe it exceeded its goal as a tool for educating practitioners in the Puget Sound Region. I would also like to thank Deb Read for her hard work in organizing this superior event. Thanks a ton, Deb!

Web site update:

A new and more usable Web site is coming. I can't guarantee the date of its changeover, but it certainly will be by January. We are hoping to have a site in which you will have up-to-date information on both chapter and industry events, access to usable links and other resources and be able to join PSHFES or renew your membership and update your profile. You will also be able to sign up for dinner meetings, tours, and the Symposium. You will get a notice when the Web site has been rolled out!

Need to hear from you:

If you have any ideas for how your chapter can work better for you, or for services you would like us to provide, I would encourage you to email me at brucecoulter@msn.com.

Bruce

Bruce Coulter, CPE

Barbara Silverstein Wins Professional of the Year Award

At this year's Occupational Ergonomics Symposium, PSHFES honored Barbara Silverstein, Research Director of the SHARP Program at the Washington Department of Labor & Industries. Barbara's contributions to the field of ergonomics are far-reaching and influential. In the mid 1980s, her ground-breaking doctoral dissertation on force and repetition as risk factors led to the most cited peer-reviewed article ever in ergonomics. In 1990, she created the SHARP program, which has conducted extensive research into the causes and prevention of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). As part of this work, Barbara has helped bring millions of dollars in research grants to Washington. In the mid 1990s, Barbara was a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Ergonomics Programs. During that time, she helped OSHA develop its first draft ergonomics standard. Barbara elevated the local knowledge level on risk factors and epidemiology when she worked on the WISHA ergonomics standard, leading the group that developed the caution zone and hazard zone criteria. These criteria are still used by many organizations today, including the U.S. military and several provincial governments in Canada. Her current research on upper extremity MSDs is promising to help clarify the debate about the causes of MSDs in the workplace, and to help us find better solutions to prevent these injuries. Congratulations, Barbara!



Past President Amy May Accepts PSHFES Service Award

In October our past president, Amy May, attended the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting in San Francisco. At the Local Chapters Luncheon, Don Lassiter, Chairman of Local Chapters committee, presented Amy with the annual Distinguished Service Award for our chapter. It was a real honor for PSHFES as we are the first recipient of the award. This award recognizes our chapter's work to foster human factors and ergonomics in our community. In addition to the award recognition, we received \$300 to advance our chapter's work.

Library Workstation Ergo Video Available

Those of you who attended the 2006 Occupational Ergonomics Symposium might remember Susanne Woodford's great presentation on her work with ergonomics program development in the King County Library System. During her presentation, Susanne showed a training video, which many people were impressed with. Susanne and the Web Services group at the King County Library System were nice enough to make it available to us. Here is the link to the training video:

https://www.kcls.org/tests/ergonomics/cki/kclib_ergo_01_13.html

Web Site of the Month

<http://www.humanics-es.com/ergojokes.htm>



It's ergonomics-related humor!

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.

Professional Development Opportunities

World Usability Day

November 14

World Usability Day is an Earth-Day-style event, focused on easy-to-use technology, which involved 115 events in 35 countries last year. World Usability Day promotes the value of usability engineering, user-centered design, and every user's right to ask for things that work better. The Usability Professionals' Association is doing that by encouraging, organizing, and sponsoring 36 hours of activities at the local level around the globe, all occurring on November 14, 2006.

<http://www.worldusabilityday.org/>

Seattle World Usability Day

November 14, 6pm - 9pm

Activities for the evening include social hour, a round table discussion, PS-SIGCHI membership signup drive, and tours of Blue Flavor's new usability lab. The festivities begin at 6pm on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at Blue Flavor in Fremont near the Troll. To RSVP, please contact Nick Finck at

<http://www.blueflavor.com/contact/>

2006 National Ergonomics Conference and Exposition

November 28 - December 1

Las Vegas

The most important event of the year for professionals looking to improve productivity, reduce workplace injuries, and grow the bottom line.

<http://www.ergoexpo.com/>

10th Annual Applied Ergonomics Conference

March 13 - 15

Dallas

"Celebrating the Past - Shaping the Future." Celebrate ergonomic achievements as we look at the current state of the industry and how we can continue to excel applied ergonomics.

<http://www.appliedergo.org/conference/>

Ergonomic Quality in Facility Design

April 11, 2007

Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety
University of Washington

This workshop focuses on the process of incorporating ergonomic quality into the design of facilities. The objectives are to provide those who may work on new designs or renovations of facilities with tools and techniques for incorporating ergonomic considerations into the planning process to minimize the risk of musculoskeletal injury and increase comfort and productivity.

<http://depts.washington.edu/ehce/NWcenter/schedule.html>



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