



# Puget Sound Human Factors & Ergonomics Society

Spring 2006 Newsletter

[www.pshfes.org](http://www.pshfes.org)

## President's Message

Hello, I am delighted to be your President for the coming year! And we are beginning the year in good style by having won the first annual HFES *Local Chapter Distinguished Service Award*. Read the related article in this newsletter. I will say that your 2005 Board was and is an extraordinary group of people, led by Amy May who was largely responsible for the body of work which contributed to our award. Congratulations, Amy, and thank you for your exceptional leadership last year. I have big shoes to fill!

2006 seems to be a year of the re-emergence of ergonomics in the Puget Sound Region. With Boeing's development of the 787 and record orders of other planes, the airplane manufacturer has hired a significant number of ergonomists and human factors engineers. Businesses who may not have wanted ergonomics to be regulated are seeing its value in increasing their competitiveness and reducing their losses. Ergonomics seems to be represented in more conferences hosted by a wider variety of industry segments.

I have also noticed that there appears to be an increasing convergence of the safety and health promotion industries as businesses seek ways to increase their productivity and reduce their health care costs. At last year's conference on "The Changing Nature of Musculoskeletal Disorder Risk: The Effects of Obesity and Aging in the American Workplace," an association was drawn between a major cardiovascular risk factor (obesity) and WMSDs. This is significant to PSHFES. The field of ergonomics and human factors has been increasingly populated by health care practitioners such as nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists and exercise physiologists. Their education and experience, in combination with their human factors knowledge, will create potent tools for the health and productivity of the emerging workforce.

There is much to do and the PSHFES Board is looking forward to bringing you some valuable events this year. The annual Symposium is scheduled for October 12th and 13th, so mark your calendars!

*Bruce*

Bruce Coulter, CPE  
[president@pshfes.org](mailto:president@pshfes.org)

## ***Renew Your Membership or Join Today!***

Our chapter is a non-profit organization associated with the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society and serves the interests of the local community of the Pacific Northwest. Our funding is generated via the chapter's membership dues and activities.

For less than \$20, you can enjoy opportunities for professional development, network with fellow professionals and tour local facilities when you join PSHFES or renew your membership.

**Members also receive a discount at our upcoming dinner meeting!**

Membership Fees:

Annual dues: \$18.00  
Student dues: \$9.00

Pay online using PayPal at:  
<http://www.pshfes.org/onlinedues.htm>

Pay by check or update your contact information at: <http://www.pshfes.org/memberapplication.php>

**Consultant Note:** The online consultant database is empty because memberships have elapsed. So, if you would like your information displayed please renew your membership.

## PSHFES wins first annual distinguished service award

PSHFES has been honored with the first annual Local Chapter Distinguished Service Award from the national Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. In the running for the award along with PSHFES were New England, South Jersey and Southern Ohio. PSHFES impressed the judges in two key areas:

- Our activities to foster human factors and ergonomics in our community among professionals who are not affiliated with the discipline
- Our activities to increase student knowledge and involvement in human factors and ergonomics

Our annual Symposium played a vital role in helping us win the Local Chapter Distinguished Service Award because of its impact on the Puget Sound region. In addition, the chapter's participation in the School-to-Work session at the Washington State Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Conference, and Rick Goggins' leadership with ergonomics in local schools helped us achieve the award.

We are grateful to Past President Amy May for her outstanding leadership and her work to gain this recognition for PSHFES. Amy has been invited to attend the Chapter Presidents Business Meeting/Luncheon at the HFES Annual Meeting in San Francisco to be recognized, to receive our prize of \$300 and to briefly speak about the activities that helped us secure this honor.

We are very proud to be the first chapter in the nation to receive the Local Chapter Distinguished Service Award, especially in the company of other high-caliber chapters.

### Welcome, New PSHFES Officers!



We are pleased to announce the following officers in their new positions for 2006:

Gary Davis - Treasurer

Deborah Read - Symposium Chair

Dana Wilcox - Programs Chair

### Web Site of the Month

<http://www.hsc.usf.edu/~tbernard/ergotools/>

If you are in need of some good ergonomics analysis tools, check out the Web site of Thomas E. Bernard at the University of South Florida. Here you will find helpful online tools for things like: the NIOSH lifting equation, REBA, and RULA.

#### *Where have you been surfing?*

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

## Join us for a dinner meeting on "If Ergonomics is A Science, The Numbers will Justify ROIs"

Doctor Henry Garfield will give a presentation on a new method and formulae for evaluating Injury Risk in terms that make it possible to evaluate tasks, determining the likelihood future injuries. It then trains the Safety Professional to use information comparing alternative solutions and utilize cost avoidance for part of a Return-On-Investment analysis.

Mr. Garfield is currently the EHS Manager for Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) in Pullman, Washington. Dr. Garfield has been a Clinical Chemist, and Safety Professional for 35 year. During that time he has provided lectures, training, and been an instructor, visiting lecturer, and professor at various colleges and universities. His lecture areas and areas of interest have included Clinical Chemistry, Toxicology, therapeutic use of medications, Ergonomics, Chemical Safety, General Safety, Environmental Safety and Remediation, and Personal Protective Equipment.

Mr. Garfield has a bachelor degree in Chemistry/Chemical Engineering from the University of Bridgeport. He has a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from Central Connecticut State University, and a doctorate in Immunology and toxicology from Wesleyan University. He is in the process of completing a doctoral degree in jurisprudence. He has taught ergonomics for an insurer. He has been the Corporate Manager of Safety and Environmental Health for two large national firms. He is the owner of a consulting firm providing help in Ergonomics, Safety, and Environmental Reviews, establishment of Drug Testing Programs, and Chemical and Toxicological Analysis.

The date is June 7

The Location is Hale's Ales, 4301 Leary Way NW, Seattle

Doors open at 6 and the Buffet starts at 6:30.

Dinner for members is \$15, non members is \$25.

The deadline to sign up for this event is May 24. If you would like to attend please pay in advance by contacting the treasurer at: [treasureshfes.org](mailto:treasureshfes.org)

## Mark Your Calendars - the 2006 Occupational Ergonomics Symposium is Coming!

This year the Symposium will be held at **The Museum of Flight on October 12 and 13**. Keep reading these newsletters as more information will distributed on the Symposium events. We hope everyone can join us again this year!

# Professional Development Opportunities

## *New On-Line course in Human Factors Engineering is being offered at Saint Martin's University*

New On-Line course in Human Factors Engineering is being offered at Saint Martin's University beginning Fall Semester, 2006. The course is of an introductory nature and is intended to provide engineers with knowledge of and application of human factors/ergonomics techniques to engineering design. Also of note is that a new Minor in Biomechanics has been proposed that will focus in human factors and ergonomics engineering. This Minor, if approved, will be offered through Saint Martin's School of Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering. The course mentioned above is part of the proposed Minor. For further information please contact the School of Engineering at 360.438.4320 or email Dr. Edward Stevens at [estevens@stmartin.edu](mailto:estevens@stmartin.edu)

## *The Eastern Ergonomics Conference and Exposition*

June 21 - 23

Boston

The most important event of the year for professionals looking to improve productivity, reduce workplace injuries, and grow the bottom line. With more than a decade of service to the ergonomics industry, the NECE has earned it's reputation for excellence. The conference provides the best in ergonomics education for the widest possible variety of workplaces: manufacturing, offices, warehousing facilities, call centers, healthcare and lab environments, assembly, construction, 24/7 operations, uncontrolled and virtual workplaces - and much more!

<http://www.ergoexpo.com/NECE/index.asp>

## *Ergonomics Roundtable*

July 14

Services for the Blind, 3411 South Alaska St. Seattle

Topic: ergonomics considerations in accommodating the blind

For more information or to RSVP please contact [president@pshfes.org](mailto:president@pshfes.org)

## *16th World Congress on Ergonomics*

July 10 - 14

Maastricht, The Netherlands

The congress 'Meeting Diversity in Ergonomics' guarantees you a unique week of interaction with colleagues, scientists and practitioners. It will broaden your scope on ergonomics. You may expect to extend your knowledge of ergonomics and to enhance your professional competencies.

<http://www.iea2006.org/index.asp?impf=01>

## *Ergonomic Quality in Facility Design.*

September 22

Vancouver, BC

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://www.soeh.ubc.ca/Continuing\\_Education/default.stm](http://www.soeh.ubc.ca/Continuing_Education/default.stm)



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