The FORVM
Forensics Professional Group
The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

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From the Chair
By David Lenorovitz

Are you planning to attend the HFES meeting in San Diego? Don’t forget to plan on also attending the FPG business meeting. It will take place on Wednesday, October 2nd from 4:30 - 5:20 p.m. in the Aqua 304 room. If you have any business items you would like us to cover please give Ilene Zackowitz (Program Chair), Kim Soyun (Secretary/Treasurer), Joe Cohen (Newsletter Editor & Webmaster), or me a heads-up so that we can facilitate that process.

Also, you should know that we will have hors d’oeuvres and nonalcoholic beverages available following our meeting. The Safety TG will be having their business meeting in the same room in the time slot immediately following ours. I (and around 70% of FPG members) also belong to that group. So Justin Morgan (Safety TG Chair) and I got together and decided that it would make sense to jointly sponsor a short refreshment and networking break to span the end of our session and the beginning of theirs. See you there!

2013 Annual Meeting Technical Program
By Ilene Zackowitz

Thanks to all who submitted proposals for the 2013 Meeting. I am delighted that FPG has 4 sessions at the meeting this year! We have 2 lecture sessions, 1 panel discussion and one alternative format session. The tentative schedule of sessions and content are described below. I hope to see you all in San Diego this October!

FP1 Lecture Session – Theoretical Issues in Forensic Human Factors
Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

1. Sophisticated User: When Does a Jury Find Users to Have Sophisticated Knowledge After Determining Liability/Failure to Warn?

2. Evaluation of Mobile Eye Tracking for Forensic Analysis of Pedestrian Falls
3. Practical Method for Forensic Testing of Fall Impact Effects on the Human Spine

4. The Pathology of Everyday Things - Stairways – Revisited

5. Stairway Step Dimensions: Replication of a Measurement System Study

**FP2 Lecture Session - Forensic Human Factors Applications and Practice**
Wednesday, October 2, 2013, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

1. Falling From Airstairs While Disembarking From a Commuter Plane

2. A Forensic Human Factors Analysis of a Playground Designated for Special Needs Children

3. An Efficient Method to Evaluate Skylight Hazard Conspicuity

4. A False Sense of Security: Hazards Associated With Working on Flat Roofs With Parapet Walls

**FP3 Alternative Format – Working With Visual Media Professionals to Create Compelling Presentations (Joint session with Safety TG)**
Thursday, October 3, 2013, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Authors:** Gary D. Sloan, Joshua Cohen, Jay Syverson

Abstract: Human factors safety and forensic professionals are often tasked with inspecting a scene where an accident or injury occurred. Retelling a story accurately and in a compelling way, without a visual context, is challenging. Three-dimensional computer modeling is a tool that some human factors professionals are utilizing to assist in their practice. The goal of the alternate format session is to demonstrate how this technology can be beneficial to human factor (HF) professionals. In addition, the session will emphasize the need for collaboration between HF practitioners and visual media professionals whose skill sets embrace computer graphics and animation. Two such professionals have accepted invitations to participate in the session. Both have earned acclaim as innovators, which will be supported by the content of their respective presentations.

**FP4 Panel Discussion – Current Issues in Warnings: Selected Case Studies and Applications**
Friday, October 4, 2013, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Panel Participants:**
- Michael Kalsher
- Kenneth Laughery
- David Lenorovitz
- S. Leonard
- Michael Wogalter
- Edward Karnes
- Christopher Mayhorn

Abstract: Warnings and warnings-related issues continue to be an important focal point of litigation in the U.S. Many personal injury cases, for example, revolve around questions associated with residual hazards in products, facilities, or user environments – and the steps the manufacturer of a product, or the parties responsible for the safe operation of a facility or environment have taken to mitigate people’s exposure to those hazards. If hazards are not eliminated through design and/or guarding, then warnings and other types of precautionary instructions are commonly used to alert, inform, and remind people about the hazard(s) and to tell them what they should do to avoid or at least minimize injury. A significant body of published HFE/Warnings literature over the past several decades has addressed a myriad of issues associated with the proper design, fabrication, and application of warnings and warning systems. However, the continuing stream of warnings-related cases being litigated in courts across the country, serves as an important reminder that warnings issues are not merely abstract and theoretically interesting topics of discussion, but are rather items of concern that can have a significant, real-world impact on the conduct of our daily lives. The seven HF/E forensic professionals in this panel discussion session provide different but related perspectives on warnings-related applications.
and case study examples drawn from their respective professional practices. These discussion topics help to provide greater insights into the ways in which warnings-related research and theoretical constructs are translated into warnings experts’ opinions in actual court cases.

**Announcement: New Forensics E-Book**

By Joe Cohen

With the recent milestone of 25 years of forensic HF/E work presented at the HFES annual meetings, it is long past time to make this valuable research available to the wider community of forensic and legal professionals. This new e-book from the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society does exactly that; it organizes in one place most of the research generated by members of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) at its annual meetings. This e-book also provides some additional overview articles by prominent forensic HF/E scientists and practitioners that synthesize this past research and place it in the broader context of the forensic HF/E literature.

This e-book is organized in chapters by the primary areas of contemporary forensic HF/E practice: slip, trip, and falls; transportation; products; warnings; and workplace. Additionally, one chapter addresses forensic practice issues such as ethics and legal challenges. HF/E professionals who are experts in their respective areas have authored each of the six chapters and provide an overview of research as well as context to the articles originally presented at the HFES annual meetings.

**Last Chance: Forensics Workshop in San Diego - Monday September 30, 2013**

Level: Novice to Experienced  
Fee: $375 members; $425 non-members; $175 students

This workshop will provide human factors/ergonomics professionals with an overview of the legal domain and an understanding of how HF/E practice must be tailored to work within the unique confines of the litigation process. The workshop will cover the entire scope of forensic practice, including dealing with attorneys, conducting forensic investigations, crafting expert reports, and testifying in deposition and trial. This year’s workshop will be different from those of past years in that the presenters will use a new case that addresses different HF/E issues. The focus will be on working the case from the initial interaction with the client’s attorney through product evaluation, generating an expert report, and testifying in a deposition and trial.

The workshop is intended for individuals who have expertise in HF/E and some experience as an expert witness as well as those who are considering starting a forensic practice. It is designed so that novices and very experienced experts would also benefit from participating. The workshop will not cover how to practice HF/E tools or techniques but, rather, how these practices must be modified to maximize their effectiveness in the legal domain. Students are encouraged to attend, with the understanding that they need to develop their human factors credentials before a career in forensic practice would be feasible.

**Announcement: 66th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences**

The Academy's annual scientific meeting will take place February 17-22, 2014 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, WA. The meeting will have scientific papers, breakfast seminars, workshops, and other special events. The AAFS consists of sections representing a wide range of forensic specialties, and the annual scientific meeting gathers professionals who present the most current information, research, and updates in this expanding field.

The FORVM is a publication of the Forensics Professional Group (FPG) of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Membership in the FPG is open to all people interested in the application of human factors and ergonomics to a professional forensics practice.

The FPG Membership in the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society is not required for membership in the FPG. For further information, contact the Central Office of the HFES: P.O. Box 1369, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1369, Phone: (310) 394-1811.