

Global Universal Design Educator's Online News

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Elaine Ostroff, Editor and Publisher

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We're back, after another gap in publication. This gap is the result of the loss of the federal funding that has previously supported the Online News. This first issue is a volunteer effort but we anticipate that future issues will be sponsored.

Would YOU like to help sponsor an issue? This is an invitation for other organizations and companies to contact me about sponsorship. We want to continue to distribute the Online News for free, and your sponsorship will make that possible for the close to 400 subscribers to receive the only online news with international coverage of universal design.

Here is a little background: the Online News had been funded in part through the grant that developed the Universal Design Education Online website, www.udeducation.org. The grant was from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and ended on September 30, 2004. We had anticipated that new NIDRR funding for Universal Design in Built Environment to either the Center for Universal Design or the IDEA Center at Buffalo would support ongoing publication of the Online News. However, neither of the two Centers was awarded the NIDRR grant in 2004.

About this issue: you'll find news from a dozen countries. The world wide aging phenomenon leading to more universal design is reflected in 8 articles. In Austria and Japan the focus is in retail environments that welcome older customers; in Germany two projects envision good design as a solution for an aging population wanting independent, active lives. In the UK, they're re-using the 'Third Age' suit – this time for improved hospital design and in the US, a conference session is envisioning the content for a White House conference on Aging. The annual international Builders Show (US) has incorporated universally designed features into 'The Next American Home' – inspired by the aging market.

The issue highlights new design award opportunities – international for interior architects (Korea) and for any designer to create accessible amusement park rides (US) and national competitions (Germany) for bathrooms and (US) for students to design medical instrumentation. We highlight the high standards of a non award (Scandinavia). Several learning opportunities include two US online courses, one on Visitability and one on Careers in Design. We offer everyone the newly available Tools for Human-Centered Design (US) and we regret the announcement of the last issue of Form & Funktion (Scandinavia). You can get a free booklet about accessible tourism (Puerto Rico); learn what happened at a conference celebrating a decade of disability (South Africa) and at a Smart Growth conference (US) and how you can contribute to research in work environments (US). The Calendar has events into 2006...check it all out.

Information from the Online News may be freely copied and quoted as long as the individual author, and/or web site and this source is cited. Previous issues of the Online News are available online at the Global Universal Design Education Network website at: <http://www.universaldesign.net>.

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AUSTRIA

Market for Seniors Matures in 2004

North American supermarkets are watching with interest a European experiment in catering to the needs of older citizens. A May visit to one of Adeg Aktiv Markt 50+'s two Vienna locations revealed a store that would feel familiar to American shoppers, but with a design modified specifically to meet the needs of seniors. Such modifications include reduced-glare lighting and slip-proof flooring; wider aisles and easier-to-navigate parking spaces; reduced-height shelving and pleasant places to sit; signage and shelf markers in larger type.

To read the full article, see:

http://www.newhope.com/naturalcategorybuyer/ncb_backs/Summer_04/austria.cfm

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BANGLADESH

Access Audit of the Bangladesh National Building Code

The Bangladesh National Building Code was studied to know how well it relates to or has an impact on accessibility for people with disabilities. Published in 1993 to safeguard life, limb, health, property and public welfare, the Code addresses certain aspects of accessibility relevant to people with disabilities. The study was in response to the Bangladesh People with Disabilities Welfare Act adopted in 2001. A report of the study published in Disability World comments on the positive intent of the Code's inclusive approach while revealing that the Code's provisions are not sufficient to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are met. The study recommends the development of more extensive accessibility standards and guidelines to provide uniform design requirements for building accessible to all people.

To learn more, read: http://www.disabilityworld.org/09-11_04/access/bangladesh.shtml

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BRAZIL

Designing for the 21st Century Conference in Rio de Janeiro

This extraordinary conference brought together over 350 leaders from more than 30 nations to exchange knowledge, best practices and the latest advances on Human-Centered Universal Design.. Jim Sandhu's keynote emphasized that "Design for the 21st Century is about sustainability, social responsibility and civic rights. To put it bluntly, this conference is about designing for our future survival. Above all we have to recognize that we do not inherit the earth from our parents, but instead borrow it from our children." You can read it at <http://www.designfor21st.org/pg.cfm?nid=309&l=en>.

The Ron Mace Designing for the 21st Century awards were presented to 21 individuals and organizations whose work has advanced universal design practice and education. See: <http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org/index.php?option=Content&Itemid=271&pid=17>

More conference highlights, including the proceedings and the 2004 Rio Declaration on Sustainable Social Development, Disability & Ageing can be found at <http://www.designfor21st.org/>

The product of the Latin American Strategy Session on Universal Design is available in Spanish at: <http://www.rollinggrains.com/archives/000289.html> and in Portuguese at: <http://www.rollinggrains.com/archives/000288.html>

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CANADA

Inclusive Cities Canada Initiative

Inclusive Communities Canada (ICC) is a project of five community and regional social planning councils across Canada, in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Social Development of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The goals of Inclusive Cities Canada are to strengthen civic capacity to create and sustain inclusive communities for the mutual benefit of all people and to ensure that work at the local civic level is acknowledged as being critical to a national urban strategy and that community voices of diversity are recognized as core Canadian voices.

For more on this initiative, see: <http://www.inclusivecities.ca/publication/index.html>

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GERMANY

Student competition -- Universal Design & Architecture -- Living Spaces for the Elderly - Bathroom Visions of the future

Today the media portray senior citizens as being in the prime of life. Elderly people enjoy a high life expectancy and are highly mobile. They are avid consumers, and have the purchasing power to back it up. Nevertheless, life in advanced years, e.g. from 70 onward, has its own special framework. The competition entitled "Lebens(t)räume Bäderwelten" puts a spotlight on this framework, inviting students of design, architecture or interior design as well as young designers who have graduated within the last three years an opportunity to demonstrate their competence in the field.

For full competition details, see:

http://www.ifdesign.de/inhalt-projects_lebensraeume_e.html

SENTHA Project

SENTHA stands for "Everday Technology for Senior Households" and is funded by the German Research Society (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG). In this multi-disciplinary research project, designers at the Berlin University of the Arts work together with scholars from the Technical Universities in Berlin and Cottbus, as well as the Berlin Institute for Social Research. Goal of our research is to develop products and services for a continuously aging society so that older people can maintain their independence in everyday life for as long as possible.

To learn more about this project, see: <http://www.sentha.udk-berlin.de/engl/index.htm>

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JAPAN

New Services Lure Elderly to Convenience Stores

After three decades in Japan, convenience stores are beginning to show their age, or at least cater to age. The stores are stepping up efforts to attract more middle-aged and elderly customers by introducing barrier-free shopping and products designed specifically for them.

To read more on this, see:

<http://arch.asahi.com/english/business/TKY200408240227.html>

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KOREA

2nd International Federation of Interior Architects Design for All Award

The purpose of the Design for All Award is to promote interior architects, architects or designers who have recently completed work in socially relevant design. Design for All aims at solutions that benefit marginalized groups in society, including solutions to aid disabled people within society through space planning, transportation, utensils etc. The theme also includes solutions relating to Green Design.

The deadline is May 15 and full details can be found at:
<http://www.ifeworld.org/awards.htm>

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PUERTO RICO

Accessible Tourism, Puerto Rico - Booklet Available

The Puerto Rico Tourism Company has developed a booklet to promote accessible travel for individuals with disabilities. Here you will find information on: who has accessible rooms and how many at a particular hotel/country inn, which hotels have a ramp that goes to the beach, restaurants that have accessible menus, parking and dining areas, which attractions/recreational venues are accessible, and different medical services on the island.

This booklet is available in hardcopy only. Please contact the Northeast ADA & IT Center at 800-949-4232 or northeastada@cornell.edu for a free copy. (Content for this piece came from the Northeast ADA newsletter.)

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SCANDINAVIA

Nordic Design for All Award 2004 not Awarded

The Autumn 2004 issue of the newsletter "...for all" reports "The judging panel for the 2004 Nordic Design for All honour has decided not to award the honour in 2004 - partly because too few nominations were received (one from Denmark and five from Sweden), but mainly because the nominations did not meet the central criterion for the honour's "good example of applied

Design for All solutions in general products, services and systems”. “The Nordic Council on Disability Policy will award the Nordic honour in 2005 on the same theme as the Council's theme for 2005 of Democracy for all and cultural expressions.”

For the full Autumn 2004 issue, see: http://www.nsh.se/in_english/for_all_no2_Autumn2004.htm

Form & Funktion – Last Issue

December was the last issue of “Form & Funktion” (Nordic Design for All magazine) Some of the articles in this issue are: ‘Design for All – Let’s Seize It!’, ‘Revolutionary New Approach, From Design for People with Disabilities to Design for All, Design for All for Ever and Ever?’ and ‘We believe in People.’

For the full issue, see: http://www.nsh.se/in_english/Form&Funktion_in_English.htm

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SOUTH AFRICA

Access 2004

The conference was held November 30 – December 2, 2004 in Cape Town. Its purpose was to consider: what has the effect of democracy been on people with disabilities in terms of access to ensure equal participation in and benefit from mainstream society? .How will disabled people be Celebrating Disability in our Decade of Democracy, 1994 – 2004? The organizers believed that there was need to take stock of access related achievements and best practices benefiting persons with disabilities since the first democratic elections in 1994.

For conference content, see: <http://www.access2004.co.za/post.html>

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UNITED KINGDOM

DRC launches guidance on creating accessible events

'Creating Accessible Events' is the title of new guidance from the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) and Northern Ireland Equality Commission. The 64-page document is aimed at everyone who organizes events, whatever their nature or size. Local fundraising groups, organizers of research conferences, political parties, community planning partnerships,

showcase exhibitions and organizers of large entertainment events can all use the guidance to help them plan changes to make their event accessible to everyone.

Full details at:

<http://www.drc.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publicationdetails.asp?id=322§ion=access>

SATH receives World Tourism Award

The Seventh Annual World Tourism Award, co-sponsored by American Express Company (AMEX), International Herald Tribune (IHT) and Reed Travel Exhibitions (RTE), was presented at World Travel Market, ExCel Centre, London. The 2004 Award Honoree is the Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality (SATH), a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to raise awareness of the needs of all travelers with disabilities, remove physical and attitudinal barriers to free access, and expand travel opportunities around the world. The Award was presented in recognition of SATH's "extraordinary vision and pioneering work in opening the door to 'the world' for travelers with disabilities, the mature and elderly, through its educational programs for all sectors of the travel industry on how to cater to the special needs of this lucrative and rapidly expanding niche market."

Full details at: <http://www.sath.org/index.html?section=Press%20Releases&id=4534&-session=thisSession:2C495712FCB80340D9D5487FDCB0A8F5>

The Suit That Makes You Feel Old

A suit that simulates old age is helping architects design more user-friendly hospitals. The Third Age Suit restricts the mobility of the wearer to give them an appreciation of what it is like for patients getting around the hospital. It was first designed in conjunction with Ford, which used it to test the design of the Ford Focus car for healthy elderly people.

For the full article, see: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/3538220.stm>

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UNITED STATES

Access to Fun: Design Competition

The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) is sponsoring a design competition, Access for Fun. This demonstration project focuses on designing a "transfer device" for use in a small amusement park or attraction to provide access for persons with mobility impairments. More specifically, this device must facilitate transfer into and out of a ride seat that is located below the surface of the load and unload platform. A water flume ride is an

example of this type of ride and is considered among the most difficult rides to provide access. Viable designs should provide a device that is affordable for small amusement parks and attractions and complies with the Access Board's final recreation facility guidelines. Thanks to Scott Rains of the Rolling Rains Report for this news. For more information and applications, see: <http://www.iaapa.org/accessfun/>

Rolling Rains Report is at: <http://www.rollingrains.com/>

Aging in Place: Envisioning a Bright and Possible Future

"Aging in Place: Envisioning a Bright and Possible Future" is an official White House Conference on Aging Event that will be part of the Changing Face in Aging, the 2005 joint conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council on Aging held March 10-13 in Philadelphia. Recognizing that Aging in Place is a widely shared vision that reflects the desire of older Americans to live in homes and communities of their choice safely with dignity, comfort and independence, this session will open with visionary statements of a bright and possible future for aging-in-place. Participants will generate strategies to make those visions reality. The session report will be background for the White House Mini-Conference on Aging in Place to generate final recommendations for inclusion in the 2005 WHCoA agenda. The session is jointly sponsored by the National Home Modification Coalition and the National Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modification.

Full conference details are available at: <http://www.agingconference.org/jc05/index.cfm>

Building Careers in Design: Online Course

Registration is open now for the "Building Careers in Design" course, a 6-week online course that provides 30 CRC credits to participants. The course begins March 7 and continues through April 17, 2005 and is for vocational rehabilitation counselors and other interested in design careers for people with disabilities. Adaptive Environments developed the course in cooperation with the Interwork Institute at San Diego State University. Building Careers in Design is also the name of the project that was developed through a contract with the RSA National Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center. The project provides distance learning and web resources about career development in the design professions for people with disabilities. Building Careers In Design encourages the participation of people with disabilities in the design professions in order to strengthen the practice of universal design and to create more inclusive communities.

See www.careersindesign.org for course information, to register, and to explore the extensive web resources.

NAHB International Builders Show and Universal Design

At the National Association of Home Builder's (NAHB's) 2005 International Builders Show held January 13-16, 2005 in Orlando, The New American Home 2005 blended Universal Design with

Mediterranean splendor. The accessible 9,036 square-foot house incorporated home automation, new technology, energy efficiency and healthy home construction techniques.

Details of the TNAH can be found at: <http://www.buildersshow.com/NCHI/>

National Student Design Competition - Universal Design for Accessible Medical Instrumentation

The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Accessible Medical Instrumentation is sponsoring a 2004-2005 National Student Design Competition where the focus is on three target accessible design areas: Weight Scale, Syringe Dosing, and Ergometer.

Full details of this student design competition are available at: <http://www.rerc-ami.org/rerc-ami/r2d2/d22-yr2.htm>

Online Visitability Course Coming in March

The Center on Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDEA) is offering a new online course on Visitability; a sustainable and affordable approach to inclusive home design. The four-week course is tentatively set to start on Tuesday, March 15, 2005. The course covers information related to the history of Visitability, its fundamental principles, as well as existing Visitability programs and proposed initiatives.

If you are interested in participating in the visitability course, please go to <http://www.homemods.org/> and click on the Online Courses link to register.

Smart Growth Conference

This conference was held January 27-29 in Miami Beach Florida. The 2005 national, multidisciplinary conference was to build on the success of the first three annual *New Partners for Smart Growth* conferences, held in 2002 in San Diego, 2003 in New Orleans, and 2004 in Portland. The program featured cutting-edge smart-growth issues, the latest research, implementation tools and strategies, successful case studies, interactive learning experiences, new partners, new projects, and new policies. It included a session titled "Universal Design: Addressing Access through Livable Communities."

Conference details are available at:
<http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/smartgrowth/default.html>

Tools for Introducing Human – Centered Design Now Available

Tools for Introducing Human – Centered Design is a teaching unit that is now available for viewing and downloading at the Universal Design Educator's Online website. Developed

by Elaine Ostroff and Leslie Kanen Weisman, the unit includes a large slide show along with a survey. The slide show introduces the civil rights background of universal design and illustrates the Principles of Universal Design with examples from several design disciplines. The survey is the first building survey that includes universal design performance criteria, ADA requirements for existing buildings and some sustainability issues; it is available as an accessible PDF file. There is no charge for the materials but users must register in order to download the slide show.

See http://www.udeducation.org/teach/course_mods/survey/index.asp

Workplace RERC – Research in Work Environments

The Workplace RERC is currently conducting research on assessments that are performed for accommodations, assistive technology, ergonomics, etc. in the work environment. We would like to gather samples of all types of protocols, tools, and forms that people use. These do not have to be formal or standardized, since we are analyzing the assessments related to the information that is gathered, how it is gathered, who they are used with, who uses them, etc. We would prefer to get actual copies of anything that people refer to. This RERC identifies, designs, and develops devices and systems to help people with disabilities be more productive in the workplace. A primary focus of the Center is the use of universal design concepts -- the design of products and environments to be usable by all workers, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

To share your assessments, please contact: Carrie Bruce by phone at 1-800-726-9119 (v/tty) or via email at carrie.bruce@catea.org if you would be willing to share resources

For information on the Workplace RERC, see: www.workplacerc.org

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Global Universal Design Educator's Network e-mail list

The Trace Research and Development Center is the host of the educator's email list. Note that the email list and the Online News are two distinct features. The list is interactive, unlike the Online News that you receive bi-monthly. If you want to be part of an interactive e-mail exchange with other people who are interested in teaching and learning about universal design education, you must subscribe as explained below. Once you subscribe you will receive directions for how to use the list.

* To subscribe go to <http://trace.wisc.edu:8080/mailman/listinfo/universaldesign-ed> where you can subscribe online. You will also learn more about the purpose of the list.

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CALENDAR AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

January-June, 2005: Universal Design Professional Development Series, Toronto, Ontario. a sequence of interdisciplinary workshops presented by Design Exchange in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The workshops introduce designers and other professionals to the concept of Universal Design and how they can create accessible products, services and environments for people with disabilities and the aging population. Full details of Workshop Series: <http://www.dx.org/universal/>

March 10-13, 2005: The Changing Face of Aging: 5th Joint Conference of the American Society and the National Council on Aging, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Includes Aging in Place: Envisioning a Bright and Possible Future, An official White House Conference on Aging Event. See: <http://www.agingconference.org/jc05/theme.cfm>

March 7 - April 17, 2005: Registration is open now for the "Building Careers in Design" course, a 6-week course that provides 30 CRC credits to participants. The course is for vocational rehabilitation counselors and other interested in design careers for people with disabilities. Full details and registration at: www.CareersInDesign.org

March 14-19, 2005: Technology and Persons with Disabilities, Los Angeles, CA. This is a comprehensive, international conference, where all technologies across all ages; disabilities; levels of education and training; employment; and independent living are addressed. Full details available at: <http://www.csun.edu/cod/conf/>

April 1, 2005: Deadline for Workplace Accommodations: State of the Science Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. This conference will establish a national dialogue on the current state and future directions of workplace accommodations. A goal of the conference will be to develop an agenda for future directions in research, service delivery, and product development based on user needs for workplace accommodations. It will include the topic: Universal Design and AT - e.g., how are new universally designed products changing the need for assistive devices; what are the benefits and drawbacks of universal design; what tools/efforts can promote development of universally designed products. See: <http://www.workplacerc.org/sos/>

April 5-8, 2005: INCLUDE 2005, London, UK. Inclusive design is a process whereby designers and manufacturers ensure that their products and services address the needs of the widest possible audience. Don't miss this opportunity to discuss your work on inclusive design at one of the key research and design business conferences of 2005, adding to the cutting-edge approaches, case studies and real world achievements described at Include 2001 and 2003. See: <http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2005/call.html>.

April 11-13, 2005: 2005 ADA Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, and Disability Conference, Columbus, OH. The Fifth Annual Multiple Perspectives conference will encourage reflection on sameness, difference and equity while providing an opportunity to share practical information, explore current research and develop collaborations. The conference will continue its tradition of bringing together a diverse audience (individuals & employers, students & educators, advocates & policy makers, consumers & service agencies) to reflect on the many dimensions of disability. See: <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2005.htm>

May 17-19, 2005: National DBTAC ADA Symposium: The Annual Conference on Disability Issues, Kansas City, KS. The National ADA Symposium is the most comprehensive training event available on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability issues including accessible information technology. The ADA Symposium brings together nationally recognized experts in their fields to conduct dynamic, interactive trainings in a relaxed environment that encourages networking and group problem-solving. Learn more about this comprehensive conference on the ADA and disability-related issues at <http://www.adaupdate.org/Symposium.html>.

May 24-25, 2005: The 5th Conference of the International Society for Gerontechnology - Gerontechnology 2005, Nagoya, Japan. This conference held about every 3 years will focus on the following topics: Health & Self-esteem, Housing & Daily Living, Mobility & transport, Communication & Governance, Work Condition & Work Ability, Geriatrics & Dementia Cares, Leisure, Robotics for Human Support, Universal Design and Standards for the elderly & disabled people. See: <http://www2.convention.co.jp/5isg/english/>

June 23-27, 2005: RESNA's 28th International Conference, Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA. <http://www.resna.org/Conference/2005Conference/2005conf.php>

July 6, 2005: iDec2. The 2nd International Design and Engagability Conference (iDeC) will bring together, researchers, designers and organizations that focus on providing accessible, usable and engaging products and services.. See: <http://www.usabilitynews.com/news/article1855.asp>

July 22-27 2005: HCI International 2005, including: 11th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction jointly with Symposium on Human Interface (Japan) 2005, 6th International Conference on Engineering Psychology and Cognitive Ergonomics, 3rd International Conference on Universal Access in Human-Computer Interaction, 1st International Conference on Virtual Reality, and 1st International Conference on Usability and Internationalization, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. The conference objective is to provide an international forum for the dissemination and exchange of scientific information on theoretical, generic, and applied areas of HCI, usability, internationalization, virtual reality, universal access and cognitive ergonomics. See: <http://www.hci-international.org/>

August 2-6 2005: AHEAD 2005, Milwaukee, WI. The conference will highlight research-informed practice, the knowledge or practice based upon the practical application of objective and accurate information. AHEAD will also include a track in Universal Design and a Universal Design Leadership Institute. See: http://www.ahead.org/training/conference/2005_conf/index.htm

August 23-25 2005: Accessible Design in the Digital World 2005, Dundee, Scotland. The conference will explore the frontiers of inclusive design in the real world. It will examine some of the challenges in implementing the numerous guidelines and meeting legal responsibilities. There will be opportunities for discussion and debate among those at the front-line of design and development work and those providing guidance regarding accessible and inclusive design. Topics include: New methods for inclusive design of accessible objects, Emerging technologies and developments for inclusive and accessible design, The impact of inclusive design and its implementation, and Examples of innovative designs which enhance accessibility. See: <http://www.accessinthedigitalworld.org/2005/>

September 8-11 2005: National Institute on Recreation Inclusion, Palm Springs, California. Get the most current information on recreation inclusion at the premier inclusion institute. Sessions for professionals, educators, students, advocates, parents, therapists, and others seeking: Basic knowledge about the inclusion process, In-depth knowledge about implementing inclusive recreation programs, and Knowledge about managing the inclusive recreation process. See: <http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=665>

September 15-16 2005: Workplace Accommodations: State of the Science, Atlanta, Georgia. This conference will establish a national dialogue on the current state and future directions of workplace accommodations. A goal of the conference will be to develop an agenda for future directions in research, service delivery, and product development based on user needs for workplace accommodations. It will include the topic: Universal Design and AT - e.g., how are new universally designed products changing the need for assistive devices; what are the benefits and drawbacks of universal design; what tools/efforts can promote development of universally designed products. See: <http://www.workplacerc.org/sos/>

September 28-30 2005: International Conference on Accessible Tourism, Kenya Nairobi. Conference topics will include: Accessible Tourism (Tourism for all), Accessible accommodation, Accessible transportation, Accessible environment, Universal design, Accessibility as a human right and Travel/tour for special adapted trips. For full details, contact the Kenya Disabled Development Society at: bodo@avu.org
Their website is: <http://www.interconnection.org/kdds/index.htm>

October 23-26 2005: White House Conference on Aging, Washington, DC. The White House Conference on Aging occurs once a decade to make aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress, and to assist the public and private sectors in promoting dignity, health, independence and economic security of current and future generations of older persons. See: <http://www.whcoa.gov/>

October 29-31 2005: International Design Congress—IASDR 2005, Taiwan. The Asian Society for the Science of Design (ASSD) member societies and the Euro-America-based Design Research Society (DRS) have agreed that an all-inclusive academic platform should be established for uniting the design research societies of both the East and the West. The name of the newly formed organization is the “International Association of Societies of Design Research (IASDR) and this is it’s first conference which includes the topic of Universal Design. See: <http://www.2005idc.yuntech.edu.tw/>

November 16-18 2005: World Summit on the Information Society. Tunis, Tunisia. The first phase of WSIS took place in Geneva and the second phase will take place in Tunis. A fundamental change from an industrial to information-based society is taking place. This information revolution affects the way people live, learn and work and how governments interact with civil society. Information is a powerful tool for economic and social development and this Summit will provide a unique opportunity for all key players to contribute actively to bridge the digital and knowledge divides. Development themes will be a key focus in the second phase in Tunisia and it will assess progress that has been made and adopt any further Action Plan to be taken. See: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>

February 1-6 2006: International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence (ICADI), St. Petersburg, FL. The International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence will bring together researchers, practitioners, business leaders and people involved in aging policy to focus on these issues. Smart Homes, Assistive Technology, Injury Prevention: , Housing, Home Modification and Universal Design, Transportation, Telehealth and Robotics. See: <http://icadi.php.ufl.edu/2006/>

April 4-6 2006: Ergonomics Society Annual Conference 2006, UK. The conference includes a symposium on 'Inclusive Homes, Inclusive Living' including Users' aspirations and barriers in:

Neighbourhood, Home, Mainstream utilities , Support services, and The marketplace for homes, systems and products. See: <http://www.ergonomics.org.uk/events/AC2006call.htm>

May 30-June 2 2006: IFA 8th Global Conference on Aging, Copenhagen, Denmark. The Copenhagen conference aims to highlight cross-cultural co-operation to meet the challenges of global aging, and at the same time address important region-specific issues of ageing. The conference will be built up around the following themes and dimensions: The Economics of Aging, The Challenges of Aging, Active Aging - Aging Well, and Empowerment – participation. See: <http://www.global-ageing.dk/>

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Adding your information, questions to the Online News:

Send e-mail to elaine@ostroff.org by the 20th of the month before the scheduled bi-monthly issue. Articles should be limited to 300 words. If the issue is too full to include, and the timeliness of the article allows it, we may hold the item until the following issue. Queries about potential submissions are welcome.

To subscribe to the Online News, send an e-mail message to the same address. Please include your name and email address within the body of the message. There is no charge.

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