

Aging Technical Group

Summer 2002

Message from the Chair

Don Lassiter
TG Chair

I hope you have had a good year. This has been a memorable and challenging one for us all. I have several items I want to communicate to our members, beginning with a reminder to please vote for our TG officers for next year. This newsletter contains the election ballot. Please vote and send your ballot to Darin Ellis by the September 20 deadline. Darin and I will independently tabulate the votes (he and I are not running for an office this year), and announce the results via the TG list server. I will also announce the winners at the business luncheon meeting during the HFES Annual Meeting.

As you all probably know by now, the HFES Annual meeting will be held in Baltimore, MD, from September 30 to October 4, 2002. (You may remember that the original meeting location was to be Pittsburg, PA, but the new convention center there was not going to be completed in time for our meeting). The host chapter is the Potomac Chapter, and they, along with the Host Committee and the Technical Program Committee, TG program chairs, and the HFES Central Office staff, have put together a great meeting with the theme "Bridging Fundamentals and New Opportunities". The main site for the meeting and the Preliminary Program can be accessed at <http://hfes.org>, and the Potomac Chapter has a section on its web site (users.erols.com/hfespoc) that serves as a source about the meeting and local area.

Registration packets for the Annual Meeting have been mailed out, and you can also access registration information on the HFES main web site (<http://hfes.org>). You can register

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Research and Training Profiles in Human Factors and Aging

C.T. (Chip) Scialfa
Perception, Aging and Cognitive Ergonomics Program
University of Calgary

Although there are several sources that provide information on training and research opportunities in human factors and ergonomics, the database for those interested in aging is less organized. This is the second of a series of profiles that will describe the facilities, scientists, research opportunities, and training environments at North American institutions. If you would like to have your institution included in this series, feel free to contact me (scialfa@ucalgary.ca). I'll be happy to "spread the word".

The University of South Dakota

OK, here's a bonus question for those who thought they knew about human factors training in this U.S. What small university has had a human factors program since the early 1960's, graduated more than 60 Ph.D.s during that time, and regularly places interns in companies such as Intel, 3M, and Honeywell? Having trouble? I'll give you a hint: It's in a town the name of which rhymes with cotillion.

.... Still stumped? The answer is: the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. Starting with the work of Norman Heimstra, this wonderful university on the eastern edge of the Great Plains has been quietly accomplishing what many larger schools only dream of doing; generating high-quality research and training students who can carry out both basic and applied work in a variety of public and private settings. And, while USD does not have a large contingent of faculty who have major interests in aging, there is more than enough expertise for a student to receive excellent training in gerontological human factors.

Let's start with the faculty. For those interested in aging, Frank Schieber is the primary contact. His major research interests are in the areas of vision, intelligent vehicular systems and highway engineering for older drivers. X.T. Wang focuses on human decision-making, risk perception, and probability. Holly Straub examines spatial guidance, wayfinding, and

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online, or by FAX or regular mail. The host hotel this year is the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel located on the Baltimore Inner Harbor. All meetings and sessions will be held in the hotel. The deadline for reserving rooms at the special group rate is September 4, 2002, so please get your reservations in early as rooms at this discounted rate are limited and will go quickly

Also on our program is the annual business luncheon, which will be held on Wednesday, October 2, at 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM, in the hotel. The cost of the lunch will be \$10.00. A sign up sheet for this luncheon will be located at the HFES Central Office desk in the hotel near the meeting registration area. The exact location of the luncheon in the hotel will be given on the sign up sheet. The agenda for the business luncheon will include announcement of election results and introduction of new officers, presentation of the Arnold Small Award for best student paper, updates on the web site, announcements of meetings and conferences, presentation of information from the Council of Technical Groups (COTG) meeting, and officer reports.

Some other items of interest regarding the HFES Annual Meeting: There are a number of technical tours that may be of interest to ATG members (National Federation for the Blind Technology Lab, Consumer Product Safety Commission National Testing Lab, UMB Emergency Medical Systems Syscom Center and Shocktrauma Center, and the National Cancer Institute Communication Technologies Research Center). As always, tours are subject to availability and also could be cancelled if an inadequate number of people sign up. Also, a total of eleven workshops will be held on Monday, September 30. The Annual Meeting Opening Reception Monday evening will feature a seafood feast, and there will be a social event at the nearby National Aquarium on Wednesday evening, October 2. Again, please see your registration packet or the Preliminary Program at <http://hfes.org> for details.

As I reported in the last newsletter, the HFES COTG is pushing for all TG's to have web sites up and running this year. The COTG is offering all TG's the use of its web server, and each TG has a username, password, default directory, and default template. Darin and I are making use of this facility to develop our TG's web site. Once it is developed, we will have it linked to the HFES main web site. The new site will include features such as a listserv, links to sites related to human factors/ergonomics and the psychology of aging, archival newsletters, and more. Darin and I will give a report on web site development at the ATG business luncheon during the Annual Meeting. Please contact Darin or me if you have any suggestions for web site content.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and the business luncheon. Many thanks to all who have helped me in my first year as ATG chair.



Our annual business meeting luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM in rooms Kent A and B in the Marriott Hotel

Program Summary

Tuesday, October 1, 3:30-5:00

Older Adults and Computer Systems

Alex Goldman, chair; Douglas J. Gillan, New Mexico State U., cochair. Cosponsored by: Computer Systems

1. **Age and Perceptions of Usability on Telephone Menu Systems.** Christopher Reynolds, U. of Miami; Sara J. Czaja, U. of Miami School of Medicine; Joseph Sharit, U. of Miami
2. **An Application of Neural Network Modeling to Diagnose Eating Behavior of Seniors in Smart Houses.** Jiyoung Kwahk, Virginia Tech; Robert C. Williges, Virginia Tech; Tonya L. Smith-Jackson, Virginia Tech
3. **Comparing Older and Younger Adults' Traversal Time in Expandable and Nonexpandable Hierarchical Structures.** Sri Hastuti Kurniawan, UMIST; R. Darin Ellis, Wayne State U.; Panayiotis Zaphiris, City U.
4. **An Age-Related Comparison of a Touchscreen and a Novel Input Device.** Richard Pak, Georgia Tech; Anne C. McLaughlin, Georgia Tech; Chao-Chung Lin, Georgia Tech; Wendy A. Rogers, Georgia Tech; Arthur D. Fisk, Georgia Tech
5. **Promoting Successful Computer Use by Older Adults: Input Devices and Experienced Users.** Patricia Holley, Florida State U.; Neil Charness, Florida State U.

Wednesday, October 2, 8:30-12:00

Poster Session 2

1. **Effects of Reduced Contrast on Young and Older Adults' Utilization of Context During Reading.** Tracy L. Mitzner.
2. **A Study of Interaction Devices and WWW User Interface Design for Older Adults.** Pei-Luen Patrick Rau.

Thursday, October 3, 3:30-5:00 10/3/2002

Ageing and Everyday Applications

Wendy A. Rogers, Georgia Tech, chair; Laura Strater, SA Technologies, cochair

1. **Acceptable Cap Torques for Processed Food Containers for Aged Women.** Kwan Suk Lee, Hongik U.; Seung H. Shin, Kaemyung U.; Byung C. Shon, Kaemyung U.
2. **The Performance and Satisfaction Effects of Organizational Structure and Labels on Users over the Age of 60.** Julian Sanchez, U. of Miami; Sara Czaja, U. of Miami
3. **Staying Oriented while Driving.** S. N. de Ridder, TNO Human Factors; C. Elieff, U. of Minnesota; A. Diesch, U. of Minnesota; C. Gershenson, U. of Minnesota; H. L. Pick Jr., U. of Minnesota
4. **Web Site Design for the Disabled: Issues for Human Factors Practitioners.** Sarah J. Swierenga, U. of Dayton
5. **Older Users and the Web.** Sanjay Koyani, National Cancer Inst.; Michael Ahmadi, National Cancer Inst.; Marcia Changkit, National Cancer Inst.; Kim Harley, National Cancer Inst.; Robert W. Bailey, Computer Psychology

TREASURERS REPORT

As of August 8, ATG had a balance of \$6420.10; an income of \$800.00, \$0.00 expenses. \$5000 of the total balance is set aside for endowing the Small Award, so our "spendable" balance is **\$1,420.10**. Expected expenses include shipping for the newsletter and subsidy for the business meeting luncheon at the conference.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

IEA CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The XVth International Ergonomics Association Triennial Congress will be held in Seoul, Korea, August 24-29, 2003. A copy of the Invitation and Call for Proposals can be obtained at the IEA homepage: <http://www.iea2003.org>.

Deadlines for this conference are:

Abstract for Technical Sessions:

October 31, 2002

Acceptance Notification:

January 31, 2003

Full Paper Submission:

April 30, 2003

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National Safety Council 90th Annual Congress and Expo, October 7-9, 2002, San Diego, CA. National Safety Council, 1121 Spring Lake Dr., Itasca, IL 60143-3201; 630/285-1121, 630/285-1315; <http://www.nsc.org/>.

Europe Chapter of the HFES Annual Conference 2002, October 23-25, Dertmund, Germany. <http://www.ision.nl/users/hfesc/conf.htm>

Fourth International Congress on Gerontechnology, November 9-12, 2002, Miami Beach, FL. International Society for Gerontechnology. <http://psy.fsu.edu/~isg/>.

questionnaire biases. Doug Peterson has interests in aviation psychology, usability in HCI, and group mental models. Mike Granaas investigates the visual representation of complexity in HCI, while Jan Berkhout, one of senior faculty, works in the areas of industrial ergonomics, safety, transportation, warning devices, and workstation design. Funding sources for these research efforts have included the National Science Foundation, NASA, FAA, NHTSA, FWHA, 3M, GM, and the U.S. Army.

The research facilities of the Heimstra Human Factors Laboratory are impressive. In addition to a computer lab with 14 workstations and group interaction software, one can make use of a full vision alley, an interactive driving simulator and an instrumented vehicle, a standard optometry suite and photometric equipment, an interactive flight simulator, ASL Model 501 and ETS-PC eye tracking systems, and electrophysiological recording devices.

The graduate program is designed to culminate in a Ph.D., but students earn a Master's along the way. Course offerings are heavily influenced by belief that one must know the "basics" of experimental psychology to do sound applied work. Seminars are offered every term in such areas as mental workload and instrumentation. Most students take the seminars, leading to a strong sense of community. Students are also encouraged to participate in internships and more than 90% do so.

The University of South Dakota, established in 1862, is the oldest university in the state. The campus is a handsome addition to the quiet town that boasts such attractions as heart-pumping football and basketball, the world-class American Shrine to Music Museum (for those who have never seen a Stradivarius or Amati), the W.H. Over Museum of Natural History and one of the last remaining stretches of undeveloped Missouri River habitat. For those interested in larger cities, both Sioux City and Sioux Falls are a one-hour drive, Omaha is two hours distant, and Des Moines can be reached easily for a weekend of shopping or entertainment.

So, if you like the idea of a great little program in quiet, peaceful surroundings, you might want to consider USD. As a big city boy who has been converted to the western way of life, I can recommend the locale and the people. Why fight traffic when you can be studying it?

For more information, you can go to the following Web sites:

The University of South Dakota

<http://www.usd.edu/>

The Department of Psychology

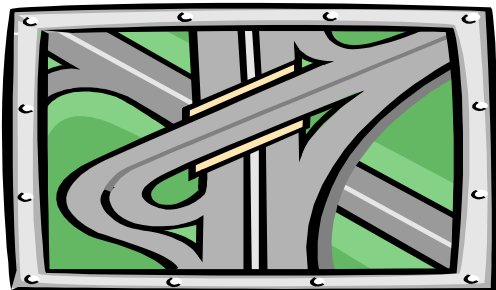
<http://www.usd.edu/psyc/>

The Heimstra Human Factors Laboratory

<http://www.usd.edu/hfnews>

US DOT ISSUES OLDER DRIVER HIGHWAY DESIGN HANDBOOK

The US DOT, Federal Highway Administration published a revised set of the Older Driver Highway Design Handbooks. The titles of the new documents are: "Highway Design Handbook for Older Drivers and Pedestrians, FHWA-RD-01-103, and "Guidelines and Recommendations to Accommodate Older Drivers and Pedestrians, FHWA-RD-01-051. These two documents replace the 1998 versions that were developed by FHWA. Included are sections on how and when to apply these recommendations; the recommendations, which are written for highway design engineers and planners; and the rationale and supporting evidence from research. Recommendations are presented for: intersections (at grade), interchanges (grade separation), roadway curvature and passing zones, construction/work zones, and highway-Rail grade crossings. These recommendations do not represent new standards but are recommended practices to better accommodate older drivers and pedestrians. To help the designers, the recommendations are cross-referenced to standard design manuals. The two volume set represents the most recent research and understanding of older driver issues and the types of design changes that can be placed into the infrastructure to accommodate for the changes that the older population experiences as a result of normal aging. The Recommendations document, FHWA-RD-01-051 is a shorter version of the Handbook developed for the design community. As part of the technology transfer program at FHWA, the practitioner workshop was upgraded and is now being offered. Copies of these two documents can be obtained through the FHWA Research and Technology Report Center, 9701 Philadelphia Court, Unit Q, Lanham, Maryland 20706, telephone 301/577-0818. For questions please contact Joe Moyer at 202/493-3370 or Elizabeth Alicandri at 202/366 6409.



MEMBER CORNER

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES LAUNCH CAREERS IN UK

Recent graduates of the WSU Institute of Gerontology Predoctoral Research Training Program have joined universities in the United Kingdom. Sri H. Kurniawan and Panayiotis Zaphiris both earned their Ph.D. degrees in Industrial Engineering/Human Factors while working in the Aging and Cognitive Engineering Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. R. Darin Ellis. Their work used different formal modeling approaches to investigate age-related performance differences in the ability to access online information. Dr. Kurniawan used a simulation technique called GOMS, while Dr. Zaphiris used mathematical modeling techniques combined with Latent-Semantic Analysis. Both hope to apply their findings to the practice of information design for older users.

Dr. Kurniawan joined UMIST (University of Manchester, Institute for Science and Technology, where she is on the faculty of the Computation Department and a member of the Research Section on Interactive Systems Design. Dr. Zaphiris joined the Center for Human Computer Interaction and Design at City University of London. He is on the faculty of the School of Informatics there.

THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT AT QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

is offering a new Graduate Certificate in Designed Environments for Ageing. The program offers a module-based, multidisciplinary and holistic approach. Graduates are able to use their new skills and knowledge in the workplace or to apply for higher levels of postgraduate study. The website address is :

<http://www.dbe.bee.qut.edu.au/research/R&DesAge>

For more information contact:

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MAX VERCRUYSEN,

U of Hawaii Med School Assoc Prof and Hawaii Academy Director, gave two keynote addresses last year:

M Vercruyssen (2001) Functional Fitness: Encouraging human struggle (physical activity) and warning about the cost of technology. The 21st University of Occupational and Environmental Health and the 4th IIES International Symposium, Kitakyushu, Japan.

M Vercruyssen & A M Ryan (2001) Person-Environment technofixes for reducing the number of falls and their consequences. Hawaii Statewide Conference on Fall Prevention for Older Adults, University of Hawaii-Hilo.

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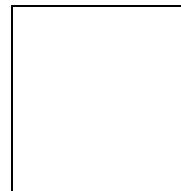
About the ATG e-mail List

Our email list has changed. Keeping up with member's changing email addresses along with periodic changes in the membership list itself has proven to be too time consuming. Our new list will be kept as up to date as possible by updating the entire list upon receipt of new membership lists from headquarters (this will occur at least quarterly). Members are **URGED** to keep HQ apprised of email changes – you can do update this information yourself via www.hfes.org. This is now the **ONLY** way the ATG listserv will be able to keep track of you.

The list remains private. Only list members will be able to post messages - this will keep external advertisements and things of that nature from cluttering your In Box.

This is now an "opt-out" list. You are now on it by default if you have an email listed with HQ in the membership directory. If you would like some help, please call or email Darin Ellis at rdellis@wayne.edu or (313) 577-2297.

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Our TG Needs YOU!

Call for Nominations to be an officer of the Aging Technical Group

There are two open offices for terms starting Fall 2002. Don Lassiter is the Chair, and will be serving the second year of a two-year term. Darin Ellis is currently the program-chair elect, and will thus serve as program-chair for the 2003 conference. The job of newsletter editor is appointed/volunteered. Darin continues in this role, but would gladly step aside for someone who is willing to serve in this capacity. We do not have a full slate, as you can see. Write-in candidates are welcome to use the listserv as a method of campaigning. Please send a note to Darin at hfes-atg@lists.wayne.edu or rdellis@wayne.edu.

Secretary Treasurer

_____ Linda Miller (Martin)

_____ Write-in

Program Chair Elect

_____ Randa Shehab

_____ Write-in

Instructions: Please send the ballots back to Darin Ellis by **Sept. 20th, 2002** via the following:

Fax (313) 875-0127

Email: rdellis@wayne.edu

Post:

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