

Aging Technical Group

Summer 2003

Message from the Chair

Don Lassiter
Aging TG Chair

First of all, let me extend my apologies on behalf of the ATG officers for not getting a newsletter out this year before now. Workloads this year have been very heavy on those primarily responsible for the newsletter. We will improve on our performance in the future. Let me begin by reviewing what happened at the ATG business meeting last October:

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Aging TG Program set for HFES Conference

Sessions scheduled Wednesday and Thursday

Darin Ellis
Program Chair

This years Aging Technical Group program at the Human Factors and Ergonomic Society Annual Meeting (Denver CO, MN, Oct 8-12) promises to be exciting and informative. The program kicks off Wednesday with a stimulating panel discussion on the role cognitive modeling in human factors design and evaluation for older adults. We hope to see you there, and plan now to submit for next year's program.

Program -- continued on page 2

Research and Training Profiles in Human Factors and Aging

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 data base for those interested in aging is less organized. This is the third 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".

Georgia Institute of Technology

The true Southerner perhaps will disagree with me, but when I think of the grand, old cities of the South, the four which most quickly spring to mind are New Orleans, Savannah, Charleston, and Atlanta. Of these, three have reputations that rest heavily on historical tradition. The fourth is Atlanta, a city with no deficit in heritage, but one that is also firmly oriented toward the future. Perhaps nowhere is this more apparent than in the Engineering Psychology program at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

The core of the program consists of Dan Fisk and Wendy Rogers (attention, cognitive aging, skill acquisition and training), Richard Catrambone (animation, problem-solving, HCI), Gregory Corso (vision, interface design, noise), Elizabeth Thorpe Davis (vision, driving) and Bruce Walker (HCI, auditory processing and sonification). Additionally, the School of Psychology includes Fredda Blanchard-Fields, Chris Hertzog, and Anderson Smith and Dan Spieler all of whom have primary interests in cognitive aging. This cadre of top-flight researchers allows those with aging and human factors interests access to limitless expertise and research acumen.

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PLUS Ballot for Officer Elections

Program Summary

Wednesday, October 15 – 1:30-3:00

Panel Discussion: Applying Modeling to Design for Older Populations (L. Laux – Chair, K Gilbert – Co-Chair)
Panelists: C. Bodine (University of Colorado Health Sciences Center), N.Charness (Florida State University), C. Lebiere (Micro Analysis & Design), N. Cooke (Arizona State University), J.Caird (University of Calgary), Jim Sullivan (University of Colorado Boulder)

Thursday, October 16, 2001 – 10:30-12:00

Co-Sponsored Session with the Industrial Ergonomics Technical Group (IE6)
Panel: The Importance of Ergonomics for the Older Worker (K. Davis - Chair, M. Jorgensen – Co-Chair)
Participants: J. Grosch (NIOSH), D. Chaffin (U. of Michigan), M. Redfern (U. Pittsburgh), W. Marras (OSU), S. Czaja (U. of Miami)

Thursday, October 16, 2001 -- 3:30-5:00

Lecture Session: Aging Potpourri (F. Schieber, Chair, Daryle Gardner-Bonneau, cochair)
(1) D.G. Morrow, M. Weiner, J. Young, D. Steinley, & M.D. Murray. *Improving Comprehension of Medication Instructions in Older Adults with Heart Failure using a Patient-Centered Approach.*
(2) A.C. McLaughlin, W.A. Rogers & A.D. Fisk. *Effects of Attentional Demand on Input Device Use in Younger and Older Adults*
(3) J. Sanchez, T.A. Nichols, T.L. Mitzner, W.A. Rogers, A.D. Fisk. *Medication Adherence Strategies for Older Adults.*
(4) T. L. Mitzner & W. A. Rogers. *Age-Related Differences in Reading Text Presented with Degraded Contrast.*

Posters

(A1) B. Peacock. *Measurement, Modeling and the Ergonomics of Aging.*
(A2) K. Sifrit, A. Chaparro & L. Stumpfhauser. *Improving Visual Attention in Older Drivers.*



Please attend our Annual TG Business Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday, October 15, at 12:00 Noon

Look for the sign up sheet at the HQ desk

Arnold Small Award

Please attend this year's business meeting luncheon to find out who wins this year's Arnold Small Award for the best student paper submission.

Last year's 2002 Arnold Small Award for outstanding aging TG student paper was awarded to Richard Pak, Anne McLaughlin, and Chao-Chung Lin for their paper, titled "An Age-Related Comparison of a Touchscreen and a Novel Input Device" (with co-authors Wendy Rogers and Dan Fisk). Their research focused on alternative input methods to a mouse: a touch screen and a rotary encoder, which consisted of a rotary control and a push button for making selections. They found that the optimal input device was dependent on the type of movement task, as well as on the age of the user. For example, the two age groups performed similarly when using the rotary encoder for a control that required long up/down movements, but older adults performed significantly slower when using the touch screen on the same task. "I think it's critical to select your system controls based on the type of movements required by the task, particularly when users are older adults," said McLaughlin. Their research was funded by Deere & Company. "A lot of the operators of tractors like those manufactured by John Deere are older, simply because they have more experience with the equipment," said Pak. "This is a classic example of the need to consider age-specific issues in design."

Winner Bios:

Rich Pak is interested in the unique age-related issues in human-computer interaction with current (e.g., web, computers) and new (e.g., pervasive or ubiquitous computing) technologies.

Anne McLaughlin's research includes designing training for medical systems and devices, as well as research on input devices and attention.

Chao-Chung Lin's master's research focused on warnings and attention. He is currently working at Delta Technologies.

The Aging Technical Group held its business meeting (a luncheon) at the HFES Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2002. Our Program Chair for the Annual Meeting, Cheryl Bolstad, reported that our TG's technical program consisted of two technical sessions with five papers each, and two posters. The two sessions were entitled "Older Adults and Computer Systems" (co-sponsored with the Computer Systems TG), and "Aging and Everyday Applications". Attendance at our sessions was standing room only. Also, since 80% of our proposal submissions in 2002 involved some aspect of computer usage, we will investigate co-sponsoring more sessions next year with the Computer Systems TG. Cheryl did a great job putting this program together.

Also mentioned at the business meeting was that ATG membership was around 261 members, down some 23 members from 2001. Drops in membership were experienced by most other TGs as well. This issue of dropping membership was also the major topic of discussion at the Council of Technical Groups (COTG) meeting. At that meeting, a number of ideas were discussed to enhance the value of TG membership, including getting list servers updated for all TGs, having ways to identify TG members at the Annual Meeting, identifying TG members' desires and needs better (e.g., develop surveys), having all TGs develop and maintain a web site, coordinating scheduling of TG technical sessions and business meetings for TGs with common interests, plus others. Also mentioned at the ATG business meeting was that the balance as of the Annual Meeting was \$7220.10 (including the \$5000 principle

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Given the productivity of the Georgia Tech group, one would expect them to boast world-class research facilities and this is certainly the case. In addition to well-equipped individual labs, Georgia Tech is a partner in the Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement (CREATE) and the Center for Aging and Cognition: Health Education and Technology (CACHET). Both efforts are Edward R. Roybal Centers for Applied Gerontology that focus on product development and evaluation, particularly in the areas of medical technology and HCI. As well, the Graphics, Visualization and Usability Center involves more than 70 faculty in interdisciplinary work on multimedia, animation and visualization, education and Computer-Supported Co-operative Work.

The Ph.D. program in Engineering Psychology admits 3-5 people per year and currently has about 15 students. They take required coursework in methodology and statistics, displays and controls, psychomotor and cognitive skills and biomechanics. They also specialize through a declared minor (e.g., HCI) and additional coursework. This training may be enhanced with industry internships at NCR, Delta Technologies, Bell South, IBM, Oracle and AT&T. Of course, students and faculty regularly participate in the Cognitive Aging Conference, a biennial intellectual feast for basic and applied gerontologists.

Atlanta is a thriving metropolitan city with a multitude of activities including the symphony, art museums, theaters, botanical garden, and of course, the zoo. There are professional basketball, baseball, football, and hockey teams (and a new women's soccer team). There are scores of wonderful restaurants to please many palates (Vietnamese, Thai, Chinese, Indian, Russian, soul food, BBQ, and the traditional southern meat-and-three). Music is much appreciated here in venues ranging from small blues joints, outside amphitheatres, and major concert arenas. Atlanta also has more parks per capita than most major cities for bike riding, dog walking, roller blading and whatever else you like to do outside.

For more information about the Engineering Psychology program at Georgia Tech, see:

<http://www.psychology.gatech.edu>

If you would like to know more about the Graphics, Visualization and Usability Center, go to:

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/>

If you are interested in the April 2004 Cognitive Aging Conference, look up:

<http://www.cos.gatech.edu/cac/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

55TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
OF THE GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

SAN DIEGO, CA

NOVEMBER 21-25, 2003

http://www.eshow2000.com/geron/about_the_meeting.cfm

SPRY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER-BASED
TECHNOLOGY AND CAREGIVING FOR OLDER ADULTS

NIH NATCHER CONFERENCE CENTER, BETHESDA MD

OCTOBER 2-3, 2003

<http://www.spry.org/conference/documents/index.html>

committed for generating the income for the Arnold Small Award). With over \$2000 in discretionary income, we can develop ways to spend this money to enhance ATG membership.

Also reported at the business meeting were the results of the 2002 election for 2003 officers. The new officers elected were Randa Shehab (Program Chair Elect) and Linda Miller (Secretary/Treasurer). Darin Ellis (previously the Program Chair Designate) became Program Chair, and continued as Newsletter Editor. Thanks to all who voted! And, thanks to our outgoing officers for a job well done: Cheryl Bolstad (Program Chair) and Anne E. (Beth) Meyer (Secretary/Treasurer).

Also addressed at the last business meeting was the need for our TG to develop its web site. Sharon Joines and Chris Mayhorn volunteered to oversee the content development of the web site, and Richard Pak agreed to be the technical webmaster. After all their hard work since the Annual Meeting, I am happy to report that ATG now has a web site! At the moment it is hosted at Georgia Tech, but there are plans to get the COTG to host it. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for a description of the site. Our thanks to Sharon, Chris, and Rich for tackling this major task for the TG!

When you get to the Annual Meeting, please remember to sign up for the ATG business luncheon, which will be held on **Wednesday, October 15, at 12:00 Noon**. The location for the luncheon in the hotel will be indicated on the sign-up sheet. The sign-up sheet will be located at the HFES Central Office desk. If you have any items for the business luncheon agenda, please email them to me ahead of time.

Also, please remember to vote for ATG officers, and return your ballots ASAP. Also, we need a volunteer for Newsletter Editor. Darin Ellis has done his service, being the Editor for three years. It's time to give him a much-needed break! If anyone wishes to volunteer, please contact Darin or me. New TG officers will assume their offices immediately after the ATG business luncheon on October 15.

Also, I am glad to have served as chair of the ATG for these last two years. I am especially grateful for the help provided by Kristen Gilbert, Darin Ellis, Beth Meyer, Cheryl Bolstad, Randa Shehab, Linda Miller, Richard Pak, Sharon Joines, and Chris Mayhorn. I hope I haven't left anyone out since so many have contributed.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Denver at the HFES Annual Meeting and the ATG business luncheon. Again, many thanks to all whose contributions have helped our TG.

NEW WEB SITE

The link to the official Aging Technical Group website is now accessible at

<http://www.hfes.org/Escapes/HFES-TechnicalGroups.html>

Current and prospective members can now access the information available in a number of online resources such as an archive of ATG newsletters, a list of related links, and a directory of members.

Because the site is still under construction, we invite all members to complete the online feedback form to help us customize the content of the site. **We welcome your comments and feedback** because our goal is to provide a usable tool that will promote communication between human factors researchers and practitioners interested in aging.

Aging Technical Group Officers

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BALLOT

Elections of the Aging Technical Group

Don Lassiter
Chair

It is time for TG to conduct our yearly elections. This year we will be electing a TG Chair, Program Chair-Elect, and Secretary/Treasurer. You may cast your vote for one of the listed candidates, or a write-in candidate.

Votes need to be tallied before our TG business meeting in Denver. Please fax or mail this back ASAP to:

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NOMINEES

TG Chair:

Darin Ellis

Write in: _____

Program chair elect for 2003 & Program Chair 2004:

Christopher Mayhorn

Write in: _____

Secretary/Treasurer:

Linda Miller

Write in: _____