

Aging Technical Group

Winter 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Christopher Mayhorn

Aging Technical Group Chair
Assistant Professor, North Carolina State University

As this is my inaugural message, I want to begin by expressing what a great honor it was to be elected to this position. As researchers who study human aging, we are uniquely placed within HFES to address the needs of a steadily increasing segment of the population. Over the past several years, I have been impressed by the scholarship and collegiality within our technical group. First as a student, then as a full member, and lastly as the Program Chair for the Orlando meeting, I have been and continue to be amazed at the variety of research interests and potential applications that our members are pursuing. Needless to say, I am anxious to begin my 2-year term and I look forward to assuming my new duties. I fully recognize that I have some "big shoes to fill" because Darin Ellis did such a wonderful job as immediate past-chair. On a personal note, I am also indebted to Darin for his willingness to help with the transition—I can't think of a better mentor!

To assist me in conducting TG business, I am happy to report that we elected a full slate of officers. Our Program Chair for the 2006 Annual Meeting in San Francisco is Beth Meyer (Semilla Consulting). The Program Chair-Elect for 2007 is Steven Wiker (West Virginia University). Frank Schieber (University of South Dakota) is our Secretary/Treasurer. Anne Adams (Georgia Tech) has graciously agreed to serve as our Technical Webmaster. Lastly, Raegan Hoeft (University of Central Florida) kindly volunteered to assist with this last edition of the newsletter before turning over the reins to Ron Hopper after the first of the year.

On behalf of all the new officers and myself, we look forward to serving you.

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Beth Meyer

2006 Program Chair, Aging TG

Now is a good time to start thinking about your proposals for the 2006 Annual Meeting in San Francisco! The Call for Proposals was posted on January 6, 2006, and proposals will be due on March 1, 2006.

Submissions are welcome in any area related to aging. There is interest this year in a joint session with the Environmental Design TG, so this would be a great year to submit research on older adults' use of their environment (home, workplace or communal living area) to support their activities. Also, because this meeting will be the 50th anniversary of the Society, retrospective papers focused on how the human factors discipline has dealt with issues of aging would also be interesting.

Material with a highly graphical component is ideal for a poster submission. (Remember that poster

submissions must meet the same quality standards as a paper submission.) Papers submitted by students can be submitted for the annual Arnold Small Award given to student papers on aging. Single-author student papers may also be submitted for the Alphonse Chapanis award for best student research presented at the meeting.

I am looking forward to receiving all of your submissions!

2005 ARNOLD SMALL AWARD

This year's winner of the Arnold Small Award was Gwanseob Shin from North Carolina State University. Gwanseob received his PhD from the Department of Industrial Engineering in 2005 with a major in physical ergonomics/safety. His research interests include biomechanical modeling and analysis, ergonomics intervention, and occupational safety. He is currently working as a research associate at Hayes & Associates, Inc.

Summary of Research: Trunk kinematics and ground reaction forces of older adults (55-63 years) and younger adults (19-29) were compared during dynamic lifting tasks. Older subjects showed significantly less trunk kinematics, peak ground reaction forces, and center-of-pressure motions than younger subjects, indicating that older subjects chose a more stable lifting strategy and it might compensate for the decreased ability of postural control over age.



Chris Mayhorn and Gwanseob Shin at the HFES Annual Meeting. (Photo taken by Neil Charness).

UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

Richard Pak

Assistant Professor, Clemson University

As a recent addition to the Clemson University Department, I'd like to take a moment to talk about the department, my own research interests, and the new human factors PhD program. My interest in aging research, encouraged by the ATG, now carries over to my research as a new assistant professor at Clemson University.

Clemson University, in South Carolina, is a land grant institution with over 17,000 students located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Department of Psychology at Clemson (<http://www.clemson.edu/psych/>) is a research-oriented department with 21 full time faculty, 450 undergraduate majors, and graduate training in I/O and Human Factors. The department offers a masters and PhD degree in both programs, with the human factors PhD being the newest addition.

Graduate students take courses in statistics, research methods, sensation and perception, human factors, and ergonomics, as well as elective courses such as eye-tracking methodology. Students and researchers have access to many resources including a high-fidelity driving simulator and a usability laboratory. In the summer, students can conduct independent research on campus, or they can take internships nationwide.

The research interests of the HF faculty and students are varied, but include topics such as night driving, human factors issues with unattended aerial vehicles (UAV), and tele-robotic operation. My own research interest is aging and issues with the usage of technology. Using multiple methods (e.g., experimental, qualitative) I try to understand how aging impacts the successful use of technology. I am also interested in general human factors of computing issues (e.g., usability issues).

REQUEST FOR INFO - LESSONS LEARNED FROM TELEHEALTH

Daryle Gardner-Bonneau, Ph.D.
Principal, Bonneau and Associates

Home health care has become an increasingly important topic with respect to the elderly. The medical and health care technologies being placed in the home continue to increase in both variety and complexity. In addition, more and more elderly patients are being monitored remotely via telehealth. There have been some significant successes, but also some challenges, particularly with older adults.

I have been involved for the last couple of years in a large telehealth project at Western Michigan University. It includes both younger and older adults, and a variety of care situations. We have come to suspect that we are "reinventing the wheel" an awful lot, with respect to solving human factors problems, and have been wondering if anyone has encountered any sort of human factors "primer" with respect to user interfaces and/or usability for telehealth/telemedicine applications that they would be willing to share. If not, we are thinking of putting together such a primer.

If you have information you can contribute to this effort - guidelines, "lessons learned," or information regarding special considerations when conducting telemedicine/telehealth visits with older adults, I would really appreciate hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me at JDNBonneau@cs.com.

INTERESTING WEBSITE

One of our members, Fletcher Platt, has his own website in which he writes about his experiences with aging. The site has some informative links and some tips on driver safety for older adults, as well as a game that can help older drivers to determine if they have normal reaction times. For more information, you can visit www.fletchplatt.com.

UPDATES TO OUR WEBSITE

Looking for who to contact or a copy of our newsletter? Please visit our aging technical group website - <http://www.psychology.gatech.edu/atg> - also for information about upcoming conferences and other resources. The website is in constant development, so check back regularly. We appreciate your comments or feedback about how this website can best support your work and age-related issues in Human Factors."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2006 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGING,
DISABILITY, AND INDEPENDENCE (ICADI)

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2006

<http://icadi.php.ufl.edu/index.php>

2006 JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL ON AGING AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY
ON AGING

ANAHEIM, CA

MARCH 16-19, 2006

<http://www.agingconference.org/jc06/index.cfm>

COGNITIVE AGING CONFERENCE

ATLANTA, GA

APRIL 20-23, 2006

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

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PERSUASIVE
TECHNOLOGY OF HUMAN WELL-BEING

EINDHOVER, NETHERLANDS

MAY 18-19, 2006

<http://www.persuasivetechology.org/>

100TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (ICOH)

MILAN, ITALY

JUNE 11-16, 2006

<http://www.icoh2006.it/en/evento>

16TH WORLD CONGRESS ON ERGONOMICS (IEA
TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE MAASTRICHT 2006)

MAASTRICHT, NETHERLANDS

JULY 10-14, 2006

<http://www.iea2006.org/>

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA)
CONVENTION 2006

NEW ORLEANS, LA

AUGUST 10-13, 2006

<http://www.apa.org/convention06/>

50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HUMAN FACTORS
AND ERGONOMICS SOCIETY

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

OCTOBER 16-20, 2006

<http://www.hfes.org/>

58TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
OF THE GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

MIAMI, FL

NOVEMBER 16-20, 2006

<http://www.geron.org/AnnualMeeting/annual.htm>

FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON
DISABILITY, AGING, AND TECHNOLOGY (FICDAT)

JUNE 16-19, 2007

<http://www.ficdat.ca/>

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