Message from the Chair

By Nick Kelling, PhD

University of Houston Clear Lake

As we enter into a new year, the reflection on the past year is unavoidable. While a great number of events occur with the passing of any year, 2017 was in many respects unique. Ranging from an escalation in political turmoil to a total solar eclipse, the year was full of events. Personally, it was the weather that taught me some important lessons.

The weather is something that easily affects all of us, but living in Houston, Texas, the weather is normally rather predictably warm. Last year, however, brought some unusual extremes. Sure, there was fun to be had in a rare occurrence of snow, but a historical hurricane has a way of putting certain things in perspective.

At my home, hurricane Harvey dumped 46 in of rain within a 4-day period and the storm devastated many homes and businesses throughout the Texas and Gulf Coast region. While the scale of the storm and devastation was epic in proportion, what I truly found astonishing was the spirit of individuals. Neighbors helping neighbors for sure, but the courage and dedication of random strangers was an uplifting trend. While my university was spared any major damage, many of my colleagues and university students were significantly impacted and the community (along with those outside of the community) rose to help. But in order to allow even the most basic of recoveries for these individuals and to let flood waters recede, the university did not open for an extra week.

However, once the initial impact of the storm was dealt with and life began to struggle for normalcy, an interesting fact became clear. In this fight to get back to normal, schools and universities led a charge. Education provided a means by which many could not only escape to a recognizable pattern of regularity, but also an outlet by which to discuss and process such an event. While many affected continue to struggle with the devastation, the universities and schools were able to accommodate unique student circumstances. To me, this once again highlighted the importance and power of education and what we strive for in the ETG.

While I tend to shy away from discussions about silver bullets to solve the world’s problems, I believe education is truly one. Having personally seen how education aided those devastated by hurricane Harvey, it is clear to me how universal education can be. When examining the realities of the world today, the endeavors of the ETG become even more important. Between significant budget reductions for education to the questioning of what facts are, our jobs as educators both within and outside academia is now more important than ever, especially considering our field. While I would like to encourage all to volunteer in any effort that helps
others especially considering the effects of events of Harvey, Maria, and California wildfires, I would also ask you to be even more of a champion for education. You can encourage the young and old alike to always continue a pursuit of more knowledge and that really would make for an amazing 2018.

Happy New Year!

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ETG Young Researcher Award

Congratulations to Daniela Vazquez Klisans from the University of Houston- Clear Lake.

“Psycogia: The Development of a Passive Gaming Environment for Use in Undergraduate Psychology Classes”

Here is a link: http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1541931213601585

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New Human Factors Books!

Designing for People
https://www.amazon.com/dp/1539808009/ref=cm_sw_su_dp

This text covers the goals and processes of Human Factors engineering, the design methodologies, the evaluation methodologies, along with theory in sensation and perception, cognition, HCI, displays & controls, automation, workspace and workplace ergonomics, physiology, and stress/workload. The book uses the learning goals approach. Each chapter begins with a few important goals, then explains the topic in an easy to read style.

Introduction to Human Factors: Applying Psychology to Design
www.crcpress.com/9781498783804

This is a comprehensive, but accessible text that introduces students to the fields of human factors and ergonomics. The book is intended for undergraduate students, written from the psychological science perspective along with various pedagogical components that will enhance student comprehension and learning. This book is ideal for those introductory courses that wish to introduce students to the multifaceted areas of human factors and ergonomics along with practical knowledge the students can apply in their own lives.

A Human Error Approach to Aviation Accident Analysis

This book outlines the complete Human Factors Analysis and Classification System (HFACS). HFACS incorporates James Reason’s latent failures. It is a text for courses on safety, accident investigation/analysis or as a reference guide.

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Proposals for the Annual Meeting

Due on February 12th, 2018

http://www.hfes.org/Security/ContentPages/?id=2689

HFES Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
October 1 – 5, 2018
Call for Contributors to the ETG’s New Initiative: Developing Materials to Guide Students Pursuing Academia.

The Education TG is pursuing a new initiative that aims to support students pursuing academia in HF/E by developing materials for potential future online presentations and annual meeting workshops, as well as stand-alone materials that could be easily disseminated.

Materials would provide professional development guidance for the initial stages of applying for an academic position to the early career stages of how to be successful once you have the academic job.

We are presently seeking people interested in:

1) contributing information and guidance
2) aiding in presenting these materials in a presentation or workshop format
3) mentoring students whom are interested in pursuing an academic job.

The input of those who have recently been on an academic job search as well as those who have served on search committees would be particularly valuable. In the mentorship role, those that enjoy providing guidance and balance during the stress of an academic job search would be most helpful.

If you are interested in contributing to these initiatives, please contact our Student Representative, Brittany Neilson, at brittany.n.neilson@gmail.com.

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