IDTG Newsletter

Winter 2017

Newsletter

of the Individual Differences in Performance Technical Group

Welcome

The Individual Differences in Performance Technical Group (IDTG) would like to welcome all new members to the organization and encourage others to invite anyone who may be interested in joining both the TG and the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES).

The IDTG is an interest group focusing research efforts on factors that influence human performance. Members of the IDTG share a common perspective: individual characteristics are important in the understanding of processes related to task performance, cognition, attention, decision-making, learning, and skill acquisition, and more broadly the TG is interested in the role of the individual in human factors research.

Members of the TG come from all backgrounds including academia, military and government-based research and industry.

The IDTG releases a bi-annual newsletter to its members. IDTG also has a Facebook group ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/1990173904534554/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1990173904534554/)). Please feel free to add yourself to our page and invite any of your colleagues who may have interest in our TG.

New Officers

We would like to welcome three new officers: Stephen Bao as newsletter editor, Jia-Hua (Jim) Lin as webmaster, and Victoria L. Claypoole as engagement and involvement officer.

Stephen Bao is a certified professional ergonomist (CPE) at Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. He received his PhD in Industrial Engineering, MS in Biomedical Engineering and BS in Mechanical Engineering. As a senior epidemiologist/ergonomist, he has conducted numerous projects primarily in real workplaces to study relationships between personal, biomechanical, work organizational and psychosocial factors and musculoskeletal disorders. He develops job assessment tools, and evaluates workplace ergonomics interventions. He has done many ergonomics consultations with a wide range of industries. As a seasoned instructor, Stephen has taught many targeted audiences including ergonomists, health and safety specialists, engineers, production workers, and university students.

Dr. Jia-Hua (Jim) Lin is a research ergonomist with the SHARP (Safety and Health Assessment of Research for Prevention) program at Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. He is appointed an affiliate associate professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington – Seattle. He currently serves as a scientific editor for the journal *Applied Ergonomics*. Dr. Lin’s research topics include physical ergonomics and occupational biomechanics, particularly in upper extremities; strength and capacity; human-tool interface; occupational safety and health; and office ergonomics. A member of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (USA), and
a BCPE (USA) certified professional ergonomist, Dr. Lin graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Ph.D. and M.S. in industrial engineering. He earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from the National Taiwan University, Taipei.

Victoria L. Claypoole is a doctoral candidate in the Human Factors and Cognitive Psychology program at the University of Central Florida. She received her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Florida in 2013 and her M.S. in Modeling and Simulation from UCF in 2015. She is expected to receive her Ph.D. from UCF in May of 2018. Victoria’s research includes utilizing concepts from other branches of psychology to explore novel ways to mitigate the vigilance decrement. Specifically, her research seeks to explain how social presence influences the vigilance task performance.

Dr. Claire La Fleur is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Army Research Laboratory in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. She graduated in 2013 with her B.A. in English and Psychology from St. Mary’s College of Maryland. She earned her Master’s in Cognitive Psychology in 2015 and Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology in 2017 from the University of Virginia.

Dr. La Fleur’s research explores how individual differences impact cognition across the lifespan and how social support can affect cognition across the lifespan (La Fleur & Salhouse, 2016) and the relationship between age and pathology on cognitive changes, including reasoning, memory, and sensory abilities, throughout the lifespan (La Fleur, Meyer, Dodson, forthcoming).

Dr. La Fleur’s research has also shown how strategies can help shape or support cognitive function. Some of her previous work has focused on how retrieval practice impacts confidence. In one study, Dr. La Fleur and colleagues found that increased practice testing is associated with increases in confidence, regardless of performance on the final test (La Fleur, forthcoming).

Dr. La Fleur’s current work with the Army focuses on decomposing cyber analysis tasks to determine the factors that make these tasks difficult and the strategies used by cyber defenders to complete such tasks. The long-term goal of this research is to develop a framework that allows us to identify individuals that are uniquely suited for cyber work and to develop decision support engines to reduce cognitive load.

Research Laboratory Spotlight

2017 Annual Meeting Review

At the last HFES annual meeting in Austin, IDTG had two oral presentation sessions chaired by Krystyna Gielo-Perczak and James Szalma. A wide range of topics related to individual differences in performance were presented and discussed. These included:

- The relationship between mindful awareness and cognitive performance among U.S. military service members
and veterans by Rice, V.J.B. and Schroeder, P.J.

- Personality, social identity and individual differences in multinational decision making by Matthews, G. et al.
- Personality measurement and design in human-robot interaction: a systematic and critical review by Santamaria, T. and Nathan-Roberts, D.
- Do type 2 diabetes patients have declined driving performance during non-hypoglycemia? A preliminary simulated driving study by Ma, S. et al.
- Investigating eye movements, attention, and multitasking with MATB-II by Liu, S. et al.
- Pupil diameter and performance in a supervisory control task: a measure of effort or individual differences? by Coyne, J.T. et al. and
- Do individual differences modulate the uncanny valley? by Abubshait, A. et al.

IDTG members also had six posters presented by Neigel, A.R., Kessler, T., Spain, R.D., Wilson, M.L., Greenlee, E.T. and their colleagues. All were very well attended by conference participants.

The IDTG also held its annual business meeting on October 12 with delicious lunch provided. It was a great meeting for IDTG members and we wish to see more people from IDTG at the next meeting.

### 2018 Annual Meeting Information

The 2018 International Annual Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Meeting will be held October 1st – October 5th at the Philadelphia Marriott in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Proposals are due February 5th, 2018 at 6:00 PM EST. Acceptance/rejection letters will be sent no later than April 9th, 2018. Proceeding paper preparation instructions will be available on hfes.org April 23rd, 2018 and final proceeding papers will be due May 21st, 2018.

More information about the IDTG Meeting will be available in the next Newsletter. We hope to see you there!

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### Best Student IDTG Paper Award

The IDTG is pleased to announce an award for “Best Student Paper” submitted to the Individual Differences Technical Group for the 2018 International Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

The award includes a prize of $400 and a plaque for the student to display at their host institution.

The Best Student Paper Award is available to all current graduate and undergraduate students whose work was submitted and accepted to the 2018 HFES Meeting as a part of the IDTG.

In order to be eligible for this award, students must meet the following criteria:

- Currently a graduate student or undergraduate student, or a graduate or undergraduate student at the time of submission
- The student is first author and performed a majority of the writing, design, and analyses in the paper
- Attend the 2018 HFES Meeting to receive your award for Best Paper during the IDTG Meeting in Philadelphia.

If you are interested in applying, please submit a PDF of your paper with all personal identifiers (i.e., names of authors, institutions, etc.) removed, along with your current CV, and proof of conference registration to Lexi Neigel at alexis.neigel@gmail.com. Note that any
identifying information in the file name should be removed as well.

The deadline to submit papers for the Best Student Paper Award is **MAY 30th, 2018 at 5:00 PM EST**.

If you are interested in serving on the Best Student Paper Award Review Committee, please contact Lexi Neigel at alexis.neigel@gmail.com as soon as possible.

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**Student Travel Award**

The IDTG is pleased to also announce a Student Travel Award to assist students in defraying the costs of travel to the 2018 HFES Meeting.

The award includes a prize of $400 and a plaque for the student to display at their host institution.

The Student Travel Award is available to all current graduate and undergraduate students whose work was submitted and accepted to the 2018 HFES Meeting as a part of the IDTG.

In order to be eligible for this award, students must meet the following criteria:

- Currently a graduate student or undergraduate student
- The student is first author on a paper or presentation submitted and accepted to the 2018 HFES Meeting
- Attend the 2018 HFES Meeting to receive your plaque during the IDTG Meeting in Philadelphia

If you are interested in applying, please submit a PDF of your final conference submission (e.g., Abstract, Extended Abstract, or Proceeding), your current CV, and proof of conference registration to Lexi Neigel at alexis.neigel@gmail.com.

Students should also submit a 500 word essay describing how the funds will be used to attend the conference, the research performed by the student, and disclose any funding received to travel to the 2018 HFES Annual Meeting.

The deadline to submit all of the materials for the Student Travel Award is **MAY 30th, 2018 at 5:00 PM EST**.

If you are interested in serving on the Student Travel Award Review Committee, please contact Lexi Neigel at alexis.neigel@gmail.com as soon as possible.

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**Call for Newsletter Contributions**

If you have any news (that could be anything about your study, or your laboratory, papers/books that you read, announcements or updates or simply your opinions/ideas on the subject of individual differences in performance) that you would like to share with other IDTG members, please submit it to Stephen Bao at baos235@lni.wa.gov.

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**IDTG Officers**

- **Chair**: [Krystyna Gielo-Perczak](mailto:krystyna.gielo-perczak@husky.neu.edu)
- **Secretary/Treasurer**: [Alexis (Lexi) Neigel](mailto:alexis.neigel@gmail.com)
- **Newsletter Editor**: [Stephen Bao](mailto:baos235@lni.wa.gov)
- **Program Co-Chairs**: [James L. Szalma](mailto:james.szalma@neu.edu) and [Krystyna Gielo-Perczak](mailto:krystyna.gielo-perczak@husky.neu.edu)
- **Webmaster**: [Jia-Hua (Jim) Lin](mailto:jialin@u.nps.edu)
- **Engagement and Involvement**: [Tori Claypoole](mailto:tori.claypoole@nps.edu)