Summer Newsletter of the Individual Differences in Performance Technical Group

Announcements
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.

We would also like to remind readers that conference registration will increase after August 27th! You can register for the Annual Conference here.

IDTG Newsletter Updates
We would like to remind our readers that the IDTG newsletter will be transitioning from a quarterly publication to a biannual publication beginning August 2018.

We will release one newsletter prior to HFES and one newsletter following the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Agenda
The IDTG will host several events at the 2018 Annual Meeting. These include:

• Representation at the Poster Session, which will be held Tuesday, October 2nd from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

• The IDTG Business Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 3rd from 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM.

• The IDTG Lecture Sessions will be held Thursday, October 4th from 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM, and Friday, October 5th from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

Other Events of Interest
There will be several events at the Annual Meeting that may also be of interest to members of the IDTG. These include, but are not limited to:

• The UCF Student Social at McGilian’s Ale House on October 2nd from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

• The Women’s Networking Luncheon on October 4th from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM. Tickets for the event can be purchased here.

• The Technical Tours at Boeing, ECRI Institute, Design Science Consulting, Inc., the NASTAR Center, and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Simulation Center. Tickets for these events can be purchased during registration.

The IDTG is currently planning a Social Networking Event with the Augmented Cognition Technical Group (ACTG). Please keep an eye out for updates related to this event! We will make an announcement on the list serv.
Best Student Paper Award

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Victoria L. Claypoole is the recipient of the IDTG Best Student Paper Award! We will present this award to her at the IDTG Business Meeting.

Congratulations to Tori!

This award will be an annual award and we ask that more student members consider submitting to the IDTG Best Student Paper Award for the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Student Travel Award

There were no submissions to the IDTG Student Travel Award. We hope that students apply in the future! If you are a mentor, please encourage your students to apply to the IDTG Student Travel Award as this can help defray the costs of traveling to HFES.

Research Spotlight

Both Jim Lin (Webmaster of IDTG) and Stephen Bao (newsletter editor of IDTG) work as research ergonomists at the SHARP (Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention) program of Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. SHARP is an occupational safety and health research program. It partners with business and labor to develop practical solutions to identify and eliminate workplace hazards and reduce the human and economic costs of on-the-job illnesses and injuries. Created in 1990, SHARP brings together information from injury and illness data, the scientific literature, industry practices, and workplace observations in its occupational health research.

In SHARP, ergonomics research focuses on identifying workplace issues through the analyses of Washington State workers’ compensation data, prioritizing its industry focuses based on the prevalence and severity of the problems, identifying major causes, and developing applicable solutions for the industry. While we have a number of parallel on-going ergonomics projects, we would like to introduce a couple of them here to our IDTG members. Here is the first one: Washington State janitors’ workload study.

Photography credit: Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders consisted about 39% of all compensable claims for janitorial workers in Washington State. Washington State Legislature asked SHARP to conduct a study on janitors’ workload this year. This is a 4-year project. We will conduct a number of activities in the field to collect data among commercial janitors in order to develop a workload calculator considering various categories of factors that determine the...
workload of janitors. Among these factors (such as tasks, environment, tools/work methods), characteristics of individual janitorial workers will be considered. For example, it has been shown that a majority of janitorial workers are immigrants and females. With the same janitorial tasks, using the same tools and work methods, the physical and mental work exposures on the workers may be considered the same no matter who performs the tasks. However, with the individual differences, one might be considered the exposures are within his/her limits but another may be considered over-loaded. Our workload calculator will consider the factor of individual differences. We will keep you updated with the progress of this project in a follow-on piece included in the next newsletter.

**Newsletter Solicitation for Content**

The IDTG is soliciting contributions from readers for the next biannual newsletter. We are particularly interested contributions for the following sections:

- Special topics or interest segments
- Laboratory, student, or colleague spotlights
- Interviews with students, professionals, or experts
- Brief Q&As
- Announcements or updates

If you are interested in contributing to the next IDTG newsletter, please contact Stephen Bao, newsletter editor, at baos235@lni.wa.gov.