Chair Notes...

In this edition of the newsletter you'll find, among other things:

- An overview of the TTG submissions and sessions planned for the HFES 52nd Annual Meeting, being held in New York City (September 22nd-26th)
- A call for proposals for the TTG Student Grant Program
- Some news from the Council of Technical Groups (COTG)
- Information on an HFES initiative to become more active in major policy issues that involve the field of HF
- - Budget and membership information for our TG from 2007.

As always, please feel free to pass any comments, suggestions and/or concerns to any member of the TTG Board. We're looking forward to seeing everyone in September!

Respectfully,
Gwen Campbell
Gwendolyn.campbell@navy.mil

2008 HFES Meeting Submissions Update

Submitted by Camilla Knott, TTG Program Chair for HFES 2008

The Training TG accepted 65% of submissions for this year’s conference. Of the accepted proposals, 10 were for lectures, 2 for panels, 2 for posters, and 1 for a demonstration. Eighty percent of the accepted proposals were ranked 5 or higher. This year, the TTG will be sponsoring 1 lecture session and one panel session. In addition, the TTG will be co-sponsoring 2 lecture sessions, one with the Aerospace Systems TG, and another with the Education TG, and one panel with The Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making TG. The reviewers provided excellent feedback and guidance which made difficult choices a little easier – thank you to all who served as a reviewer.
Submitted by Bill Howell, Chair HFES GRC

Several years ago I was asked by the HFES Executive Council (EC) to reinstitute a standing Government Relations Committee with a mandate to increase the Society’s involvement in public policy matters where HF/E has a stake and/or should have a greater impact. After a careful analysis of what the Society has done and could do, a committee was appointed that has been actively engaged in both handling GR issues that have come to its attention and developing processes for carrying out this function more systematically.

One important facet of this mission is gathering and managing information on developments in the field and government that have HF/E policy implications (e.g., imminent reorganization in federal agencies; congressional hearings on pending legislation or regulations; budget cuts in HF/E programs; etc.). In the past, such issues have come to the Society’s attention by happenstance, but it has had no systematic means of identifying other issues and opportunities that may be of equal or even greater importance for specific constituencies within the diverse HF/E field. So we decided to go where those constituencies live—you folks in the TGs—on the theory that you’re likely to know about a lot more such developments than we are, and to know it sooner.

To this end, we invited each TG to participate by appointing a point of contact (POC) for government affairs, and all 23 accepted. Your Gwendolyn Campbell graciously agreed to represent Training in that capacity. Her role will consist of checking with you periodically for topics (issues, developments, opportunities) in your bailiwick that HFES might consider acting on in some fashion and feeding the information in to us. The overall goal is to enable the GRC to compile and maintain a comprehensive file of current issues or topics with policy implications to guide the Society’s government affairs activities. Gwendolyn will be called upon semi-annually to review and update any topics in the Training TG file.

As you might expect, management of this system will be no easy matter, so we have requested that each POC follow three simple rules. First, make sure each topic submitted is policy-relevant and important, screening out items such as unsubstantiated rumors, individual pet peeves, or abstractions. Second, each topic must be submitted in succinct form following a strict 1-page format (Topic Identifier; brief Description Section; Proposed Action and Urgency Section). Third, all submissions will be reviewed by the GRC and recommended for one of six courses of action, and in the event that the Society decides to act corporately on a topic, the TG recommending it should be prepared to assist as needed.

Needless to say, we GRC members appreciate your agreeing to join us in this venture, and look forward to working with you through Gwendolyn.

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Attention Students!

Submitted by David Schuster, Best Student Paper Review Coordinator

We need volunteers to review for the 2008 Award for Best Training TG Student Paper!

The Training Technical Group (TTG) will be holding the “Best Student Paper Competition” for HFES 2008. All student papers accepted by the TTG for publication in the HFES 2008 proceedings will be entered into the contest. All student papers submitted for lectures, symposia, panels, and posters are eligible.

To support this, we are looking for volunteers to review the accepted student submissions and provide impartial ratings on the writing quality and content. Reviewers MUST be a student member of the TTG.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to get experience reviewing submitted work and see what types of research is being conducted by their student peers. The Competition winner(s) will be announced at the Annual HFES TTG business meeting (TBA).

If interested or you have questions please contact David Schuster at Schuster@mail.ucf.edu.

New Government Relations Committee (GRC) Solicits Input

Submitted by Bill Howell, Chair HFES GRC

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Notes from APA Div 21/19 & HFES Potomac Midyear Symposium

Submitted by Ericka Rovira, Assistant Professor, United States Military Academy at West Point and APA Midyear Program Co-Chair

APA Divisions 21 (Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology) and 19 (Military Psychology) with HFES Potomac Chapter hosted their annual midyear symposium March 6-7, 2008, at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. The theme of the 2008 symposium was “Distributed Cognition: Teams, Technology, Family, and the Individual.”

The keynote address was given by Dr. Eduardo Salas, a Professor of Psychology at the University of Central Florida and Principal Scientist for human factors at the Institute for Simulation and Training. The title of his talk was “The Science of Team Performance: Looking Back and Looking Forward.” His talk set the tone for discussion among 120 participants from industry, government, and academia predominantly from the Washington, DC metro area. The participants contributed in discussion towards exploring the challenges in understanding and predicting human behavior in shared work across time and space. Specifically, there were three panels, 25 presentations, and 20 posters. The intimate poster session allowed scientists to provide meaningful feedback to graduate and undergraduate student presenters.

Winners of the best graduate work included Bart Wilkinson, Georgia Tech (presentation) and Lee Sciarini, University of Central Florida (poster). Best undergraduate presentation went to Tom Beirne and Chris Bowen and best undergraduate poster went to Grace Zwick and Grant Carter all from the Engineering Psychology Lab, United States Military Academy, West Point.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June:
23rd – 27th Ninth International Conference on Intelligent Tutoring Systems
Montréal, Quebec
http://gdac.dinfo.ugam.ca/its2008/

July:
23rd – 26th Cognitive Science Society Annual Meeting
Washington, D.C.
www.cognitivesciencesociety.org/

August:
20th – 22nd Interactive Technologies hosted by the Society for Applied Learning
Arlington, VA
www.salt.org

September:
22nd-26th 52nd Annual Human Factors and Ergonomics society meeting
New York, NY

November:
4th - 9th Association for Educational Communications and Technology Annual Convention
Orlando, FL
www.aect.org

December:
1st - 4th Interservice / Industry Training, Education and Simulation Conference (ITSEC)
Orlando, FL
www.iitsec.org/index.cfm

Coming in 2009:
International Artificial Intelligence in Education Society (AIED) Annual Conference
TBA
http://aied.inf.ed.ac.uk/
aiedsoc.html

Word Play

How well do you know your HF professionals? Each of the following phrases is an anagram of the name of a well-known HF professional. Unscramble the letters to come up with the names. Test your skills on these HF professional word scrambles:

1. Fruit shark
2. Thrilling, enviable yell
3. Coherent pack
4. Tricks ‘n commerce

Answer key is available on page 5.
Call for Proposals Training Technical Group
Student Grant Program

Submitted by Natalie Steinhauser, Student Grant Award Coordinator

The HFES Training Technical Group is soliciting proposals for the Student Grant Program. This program is designed to support student research in the application of human factors in training. In addition, this student-managed program also provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in the critical professional competencies of grant-writing and reviewing. More specifically, the Student Grant Program is managed by a student affiliate HFES member and all of the proposals will be reviewed by a panel of students from various universities across the country.

The program is open to all TTG student members. We offer financial support for research expenses including, but not limited to, purchase of research materials, paying subjects, partial payment for equipment, etc. Each year the TTG will offer one award of $750. Each submitted proposal will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Clarity in presentation of ideas
- Clarity of research methods and methodology appropriateness
- Relevance of project to current psychological theory
- Project’s potential to advance research in a specified area (theoretical and practical)

Budget match for scope and requirements of the research

To be eligible for consideration, proposals must be submitted by midnight on Friday, August 1, 2008. Below are detailed submission instructions.

Submission Process
To have the grant proposal considered for the TTG-SGP, the following information needs to be submitted:

Cover Letter
Include the following information:
Name and Current mailing address
Telephone number and e-mail address
Area of research
University Affiliation
Full name(s) of other(s) involved in the project

Letter from Faculty Sponsor
This letter should describe the amount of faculty involvement in the project, an assessment of the student’s capabilities in completing the project, and the degree of independence exhibited by the student in developing the research idea.

Proposal Narrative
Complete a typewritten (single-spaced, no more than 4 pages) project description summarizing the purpose and methodology of the proposed project. This summary should include the research project’s title (without author’s name) at the top of each page and must include text on the following:

- A synopsis of previous related research
- A short description of the theoretical implications of the research
- A short description of the practical implications of the research
- Specific objectives of the current project
- Clearly stated hypothesis or set of hypotheses (if relevant)
- Proposed methodology
- Budget (budget justification explaining costs and why the proposed expenditures are necessary)

Send the above materials to Natalie Steinhauser at Natalie.Steinhauser@navy.mil or via FAX at 407-380-4063. All materials must be received by midnight on August 1, 2008, in order to be considered for this year’s Student Grant Program. The winner of the award will be announced at the HFES meeting in September. Any questions regarding the program or awards can be directed to Natalie Steinhauser or Gwendolyn Campbell at Natalie.Steinhauser@navy.mil or Gwendolyn.Campbell@navy.mil.
Submitted by Gwendolyn Campbell, TTG Chair

Recently, the following four issues were brought to the attention of the TG Chairs by the Chair of the Council of Technical Groups (COTG).

**Should the COTG establish a policy regarding the appropriate content for the TG business meetings? More specifically, do we need a policy regarding whether or not it is acceptable to have some technical content presented during a TG business meeting?**

77% of the responding chairs said that an official policy is NOT needed.

**Should the COTG establish a policy regarding the use of TG funds to sponsor speakers at the annual conference (for example, covering the travel expenses of an invited speaker, etc.)?**

69% of the responding chairs said that an official policy IS needed. (The next step is to work out the details of this policy.)

**Should the COTG provide financial support (not to exceed $2500/year) for the Mentor-Mentee luncheons that have been being held during the conference since 2005?**

92% of the responding chairs approved this proposal. For more information about these luncheons contact the organizer, Dr. Haydee Cuevas (haydee.cuevas@satechnologies.com).

**Should the COTG provide financial support (not to exceed $1500/year) for a Junior Faculty Networking Event at the annual conference?**

85% of the responding chairs approved this proposal. For more information about these luncheons contact Dr. Ben-Tzion Karsh (bkarsh@engr.wisc.edu).

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**Summary of Budget and Membership Statistics for the Training Technical Group**

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<th>Membership Numbers</th>
<th>Members 12/31/06</th>
<th>Members 12/31/07</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
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<tr>
<td>Training TG - Raw Data</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>303</td>
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<th>Summary Across 22 TGs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Average</td>
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<td>Std Dev</td>
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<td>Max</td>
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<td>Min</td>
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| Training TG - Standardized Scores | -0.26 | -0.21 | -0.42 | -0.46 |

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| Training TG - Standardized Scores | 0.14 | -0.49 | -0.34 | 0.14 | -0.03 |

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**Council of Technical Groups Update**

Submitted by Gwendolyn Campbell, TTG Chair