NOTES FROM THE TTG MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO
Beth Blickensderfer, Newsletter Editor

Thank you to all who attended the Training technical group meeting last September in San Francisco. As is typical with the TTG, the meeting was brief, yet productive. Along with various announcements and a discussion about the new position of "program chair-elect" (see later in this newsletter), two ideas were put forth for the group to consider. First, we discussed increasing the student award for best paper to $500 for 2011. This will be decided on pending review of the TTG budget. We also discussed reviving the student research grant competition. In the past, this competition has awarded a small grant to a student performing training related research. In order for this program to occur, the TTG needs a volunteer to lead this effort. Please contact the current TTG president, Ami Bolton, if you are interested.

Volunteers are still needed to review papers. Please contact Emily Wiese at ewiese@aptima.com if you are interested. The volunteer deadline is January 30, 2011

HFES TTG OFFICERS:
Ami E. Bolton
Chair
amy.bolton@navy.mil

Emily E. Wiese
Program Chair
ewiese@aptima.com

Elizabeth Blickensderfer
Newsletter Editor
blick488@erau.edu

Kelly Neville
Secretary-Treasurer
nevillek@erau.edu

Teresa Alley
Webmaster
talley@dticam.dtic.mil

Joseph Crimi
Newsletter Co-Editor
joseph.crimi@gmail.com

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HFES 2011 55TH ANNUAL MEETING

Get ready for the HFES 2011 55th Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV. Call for proposals is now open and due by Thursday, February 17, 2011. For more information please visit http://www.hfes.org/web/HFESMeetings/2011annualmeeting.html.

For more information about the conference hotel please visit https://rooms.stationcasinos.com/cgi-bin/LANSAWEB?procfun+rm+Resnet+RRS+funcparams+UP(A2560):;rcihfe;?

FUTURE HFES CONFERENCES

- HFES 56th Annual Meeting, Westin Boston Waterfront, Boston, Massachusetts, October 22-26, 2012
- HFES 57th Annual Meeting, Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego, California, September 30-October 4, 2013

If you are part of a conference and would like it to be included in future newsletters, please e-mail the conference information to Joe Crimi at joseph.crimi@gmail.com.
PROGRAM CHAIR UPDATE
Emily Wiese, TTG Program Chair

Program Chair-Elect
I would like to congratulate and welcome Dennis Vincenzi, who will serve as our first Program Chair-Elect. This is a new position for the TTG, developed with the intent of providing a means for the Program Chair to learn the job (as Program Chair-Elect) before actually doing it. While the Program Chair will still be responsible for organizing the TTG’s technical program for the annual conference, the Program Chair-Elect will assist the Program Chair. The position is a two-year position, with the first year serving as “on-the-job training” and the second year taking on the full responsibilities of the Program Chair. Thus, rather than electing a Program Chair every two years (as we do with the other TTG officers), we will now elect a Program Chair-Elect every year.

Call for Proposals
The Call for Proposals for HFES’ 55th Annual Meeting is now open. Please submit your proposals now! We had a great technical program last year, with two symposiums, four lectures, and five posters. Attendance at our sessions was great, as well, with attendance at a typical session running between 40 and 50 attendees. The number of sessions and poster allocations we receive is dictated by the number of submissions our TTG receives, so please submit your work. As a reminder, all proposals are due on February 17, 2011.
I’m particularly interested in hearing ideas from the TTG membership (you all!) on different types of sessions/topics. Some ideas I’ve heard to date include dedicating a session on training and gambling (training croupiers, training gamblers, designing the gambling machines, etc.) or inviting a professional croupier to our business meeting to teach us some tips of the trade. Other ideas and/or contacts to folks who could help us investigate these ideas are invited!

Proposal Reviews
Thank you to everyone who has responded to my request for proposal reviewers. If you have not yet responded, but would like to, please email me ASAP! For those of you involved in the reviewing process, please ensure that email messages from Mirasmart.com are not blocked. This is the system we use to manage the review process and it the primary mechanism HFES has for communicating with the proposal reviewers. As a reminder, after the call for proposals is closed, I will assign papers for each reviewer to review. Please, please, please fill out your areas of expertise – this will help me best align papers with reviewers knowledgeable in that area. Reviews must be complete no later than March 17, 2011. If you feel you cannot meet this deadline, please let me know as soon as possible so I can reassign your proposals.
10th International Conference on Naturalistic Decision Making

NDM 2011 Doctoral Consortium to be held May 31st
Due to the success of the Doctoral Consortium held at NDM in 2009, the Program Committee has decided to host another one at NDM 2011. This is an excellent opportunity for current Ph.D. students to get guidance on their dissertation proposals as well as career advice from leaders in NDM related areas of research. Dr. Heather Priest of ARI has agreed to take on the management of the NDM 2011 Doctoral Consortium, assisted by Joel Suss of Michigan Technological University. For more information, please contact Heather (heather.priest@us.army.mil).

Conference Details
We’ve lined up an impressive set of keynote speakers for the conference (see http://www.ce.ucf.edu/ndm2011/keynote.asp). For more complete information please visit the NDM-2011 website http://www.ce.ucf.edu/ndm2011). In this we describe the conference tracks and the submission procedure. To go directly to the CFP click here http://www.ce.ucf.edu/asp/cfp_ndm2011/. On this page you will also find the link to upload your submissions.

In the meantime, be sure to mark off your calendar for May 31st – June 3rd, 2011.

2011 Human Factors & Applied Psychology Student Conference
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Daytona Beach, Florida
April 7, 2011

This conference is designed to prepare students for a professional conference. Students submit abstracts and have the option to present their research as a lecture or poster. Also, students are encouraged to enter the Design/Re-Design competition. The day of the conference will begin with our keynote speaker, Dr. Frank Durso. Dr. Durso’s keynote address is titled, “Use-Inspired Basic Research: Marrying Humans and Technology.” Next, there will be poster and lecture presentations given by graduate and undergraduate students in morning and afternoon sessions. The last session will be a panel discussion about jobs and internships. The day will close with awards presented for the best undergraduate research, best graduate research, best overall research, and best design/re-design.

Everyone is welcome to attend HFAP; you don’t have to present to attend. If you have any further questions about HFAP please don’t hesitate to contact us at 386.226.6790 or e-mail us at HFAP@erau.edu. We look forward to seeing you on April 7, 2011.

For more information please visit http://daytonabeach.erau.edu/coas/human-factors/hfap.html
This year we are happy to announce that the winners of the 2010 Training TG student paper award are Allyson R. Hall and Keith S. Jones from Texas Tech University. Their paper, Distance Estimation Training: A Proposed Model of Transfer had the highest score overall after two rounds of peer review. The winners were awarded a check for $250.00 during the TTG business meeting at the 2010 HFES conference.

Allyson R. Hall recently finished her Ph.D requirements in Experimental Psychology, Human Factors and will graduate in the Spring. Her research interests while at Texas Tech dealt mainly with the effects of distance estimation training on subsequent transfer tasks. Currently, Allyson is a Human Factors Engineer at BCI, Inc in Dahlgren, Virginia. Dr. Keith Jones is an Associate Professor at Texas Tech University. His research at Texas Tech focuses mainly on human-robot interaction. His specific focus has been on operators' judgment versus drivability of tele-operated robots, and how to program robots to perceive affordances for humans.

Each year, all student papers, panels, and posters accepted by the TG for publication in the HFES proceedings are entered into the contest. This award is special as it provides an excellent opportunity for students to get experience reviewing submitted work and see the different types of research being conducted by student peers. In 2010, we had 8 entries total and 2 entries in the last round of reviews. Student reviewers rated the papers on writing quality and the paper’s overall substance of contribution. The competition for 2010 was very close as the average score of the top two papers were separated by only .7 of a scale point. We encourage any students interested in the award to submit papers to the Training TG for the 2011 HFES conference. This year’s proposals are due February 17, 2011. Lastly, a special thanks goes out to all of the student reviewers who volunteered their time to help with the review process. For more information about submitting or becoming a peer reviewer for 2011, please contact Beth Phillips at ephillips@knights.ucf.edu.

ON THE WEB
GET LINKEDIN
Connect with other TTG members through postings and discussions.
http://www.linkedin.com/groupRegistration?gid=2564704&goback=gdr_1273618065030_1.anb_2564704.*2

TTG Website
Browse the TTG web site for information about the group as well as newsletters and listserv access.
www.hfes.org/ttg

HFES Website
The HFES website is the resource for membership, publications, and meeting information.
www.hfes.org

If you would like to include events, news, updates, or other articles in future TTG Newsletters, please send the information to Joe Crimi at joseph.crimi@gmail.com.
POSITIVISM IN DESIGN
Ashley Karr, Owner/Founder www.ashleykarr.com

A few months ago I was speaking to a group about human factors (HF). To make my presentation more interactive, I asked the audience to evaluate an innovative, new design. They responded immediately with a number of evaluations, but I soon noticed that all of their comments were negative. Their attention was on what was wrong, so I tried to shift their focus. I asked them to now evaluate positive aspects of the design. No one said a word. I was shocked.

This experience stayed with me. After the presentation, I kept wondering who had hijacked synonyms to the word “evaluate” and replaced them with “criticize”? I also wondered why it was so difficult for these educated, intelligent people to say something positive or constructive. Then, I came across a report by a pair of HF specialists from a design consulting firm called IDEO. It was titled, “Are You Positive?” The authors, Sklar and Gilmore, began their report by stating that many designers have operated under a disease-model, essentially diagnosing the problems with a given design and making changes to mitigate risk and avoid damage. They then encouraged readers, especially those in the field, to take a positive approach to design and evaluation. Specifically for human centered designers, the approach should be on developing a pleasurable experience for the user.

Sklar and Gilmore were inspired from a movement within psychology called Positivism. Positivism basically states that to reach a good psychological state, people should focus on what is good in their life and build on it, rather than focusing on and trying to fix or control what is bad. This is not to deny that bad things happen, in life or in design, and to be a responsible adult and professional, risk does have to be mitigated. This is simply to state that our default perspective ought to be a positive one. Here are three examples that Sklar and Gilmore gave on how to apply positivism to design right now:

1. When asked to evaluate a design, try and create a longer list for positive aspects than for negative attributes.
2. Create evaluation metrics for positive aspects of a design and share with colleagues.
3. Spend more resources (time, energy, money) on building new iterations than on breaking down old iterations.

I felt relief finding and reading this article, knowing that a few more people in the world had gone through similar experiences, and I am happy to help them spread the word. Whether you are an engineer, an administrator, a designer, a teacher, or just a person looking to live a better life, we can all take from Sklar, Gilmore, and Positivism. I challenge you, the reader, and myself to test this perspective for at least 24 hours, more if we can. For example, if we are a teacher grading papers, highlight more of what the student does well than what the student does wrong. Then take notice of what happens. What many others have discovered, and I have a feeling we will, as well, is that creative ideas and solutions start flowing. I am certain we all use more of this. So, test it out and get back to me on what you find.