



# ODU HFES student chapter NEWSLETTER

March 2012

## Letter from the President:

Hi everyone!

Hope you are all having a great semester so far. We had a productive Fall semester as a student chapter, so thank you again for your participation. Over the holidays, Becca and I, on behalf of the chapter, conducted a usability study of a portion of the Educational Resources section of the HFES website. This effort was part of a service project to HFES. In January we participated in the Spring Organization Fair. Dr. Brill, Erik, and I submitted the budget proposals for Spring 2012 – Fall 2013. We hope to find out soon what activities will be funded in the future.

I thought the national HFES webinar panel “Getting The Most Out Of Grad School” was one of the best HFES webinars I’ve attended as a grad student. I appreciate your participation and help during that event. I also want to thank those of you who went above and beyond helping with Interview Day activities. Brittany Neilson and I represented HFES during the graduate student panel cosponsored by Psi Chi and APS. The officers and I will continue to finalize the details of our field trip to visit Dr. Morgan at VT for a tour of their driving research facilities. It will be an overnight trip starting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will most likely hold officer elections at the end of April during our last meeting of the semester, so think about who you would like to serve as officers in the coming year. Also, mark your calendars for our Spring Social potluck on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Last but not least, I am in contact with the student chapters at UVA and VT. We have begun organizing a Virginia HFES student conference. The conference will take place in June. This will be an exciting opportunity for us to meet and share research with fellow HF students and faculty. In addition, Dr. Chris Wickens has accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker at that event.

This month’s newsletter is brief, but it features a story about IMSH, a summary of the HFES webinar, and some recent news related to Human Factors. We will have another newsletter ready in May! I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Alex Proaps

## Spring events

- **January 30<sup>th</sup>** - HFES National webinar panel "Getting the most out of grad school"
- **February 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Psi Chi/APS grad student panel
- **March 12-14<sup>th</sup>** - HFES Symposium in Healthcare
- **March 19<sup>th</sup>** - HFES 2012 paper submission deadline
- **March 22<sup>nd</sup>** - 12:30pm HFES meeting
- **April 12<sup>th</sup>** - Overnight field trip to Virginia Tech's driving research facilities
- **April 19<sup>th</sup>** - 12:30pm HFES meeting (elections TBD)
- **April 28<sup>th</sup>** - Spring Social (201 W 21<sup>st</sup> St., Norfolk)
- **June** - VA HFES student conference and colloquium with Dr. Chris Wickens cosponsored by Tidewater HFES chapter

### Spring 2012 ODU HFES officers

**Alex Proaps:** President (aproa001@odu.edu)

**Kimberly Culley:** Vice President (kcull009@odu.edu)

**Erik Prytz:** Treasurer (erik.prytz@gmail.com)

**Becca Kennedy:** Secretary (rkenn014@odu.edu)

**Kellie Kennedy:** Webmaster (Kellie.d.kennedy@gmail.com)

**Molly Liechty:** Public Relations (mcris005@odu.edu)

**Dr. Chris Brill:** Advisor

**Old Dominion University  
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society  
student chapter**

### **March newsletter contributors:**

Alex Proaps

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Erik Prytz

**Find us on Facebook (ODU Human Factors)!**

**Sign up for our email list:  
aproa001@odu.edu**



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## Getting The Most Out Of Grad School

by Alex Proaps

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, HFES sponsored a webinar panel titled, "Getting the Most Out Of Grad School." The panel featured leading Human Factors scientists who each shared things they believed to be critical to success as a graduate student in an HF program. The panelists also took questions at the end of their presentations.

### **Christopher Brill, Old Dominion University**

1. Be present. Be engaged.
2. Learn as much as you can; not just skills, but content and theory
3. Be nice. Be professional.

### **Anthony D. Andre, Principal, IAA**

1. Keep a running digital portfolio. Learn how to describe school projects as part of your experience.
2. You are a Gen-X, but you are likely being hired by a Gen-Y. Make sure your online presence is professional.
3. Where there's smoke, there's fire! Look for jobs where HF is already established. Spend time now finding those "comfort spots" for young HF professionals.

### **Deborah A. Boehm-Davis, George Mason University**

1. Balance between theory and application/tools
2. Communication skills
3. Teamwork

### **Ronald G. Shapiro, Independent Consultant**

1. Set up your board of directors.
2. Develop a 5 year plan using the following methodology:
  - a. Determine what the ideal job candidate for your chosen specialty (or for a generalist, as applicable) would have as background from discussions with your board of directors.
  - b. Write a resume which ROARs (Results Oriented And Relevant) for the ideal candidate for your specialty.
  - c. Place your name at the top of the resume.
  - d. Highlight everything on the resume that does not fit you today. Make a list of those things.
  - e. Prepare an action plan to make the resume 100% true.
  - f. Execute the action plan.
3. Don't revise the plan too often.

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### **ODU's HFES student chapter member reactions to panel:**

I understand more about why it is essential to focus on theoretical issues and to learn as much as we can while we are in grad school taking courses and doing research. We are in a safe environment designed for learning and self-development.

Creating a board of directors and ideal candidate resume would act as a compass on my journey to become a contributing human factors scientist and practitioner. That advice was particularly helpful.

I thought the most helpful recommendations was the digital portfolio. When constructing a digital portfolio, some important points to keep in mind include clearly identifying the purpose and audience for the portfolio, including examples that demonstrate one's theoretical and applied knowledge, and keeping the portfolio up to date.

One of the most helpful portions of the webinar was the suggested reading list: "Don't Make Me Think," "Design of Everyday Things," "Set Phasers on Stun," "The Humane Interface," "Natural Born Cyborgs," and the 50th Anniversary Issue *Human Factors*.

I enjoyed the discussion related to choosing between a PhD program and a Master's program in a field related to Human Factors. This is a decision I already made, but I think it is important for students applying to grad school to truly think about these differences between degrees before pursuing one path or the other.

## IMSH in San Diego

by Becca Kennedy



Top: Mannequin, Brittany Anderson-Montoya presenting a poster, Becca Kennedy accepting a fourth place plaque, Dr. Mark Scerbo giving plenary address; Middle: Dr. Mark Scerbo taking questions during plenary address; Bottom: Mannequins. *Photos by Erik Prytz*

The 12th Annual International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH), the meeting for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, took place January 29th to February 1st, 2012. This year, the conference was held in sunny San Diego. This year, Dr. Mark Scerbo and graduate students Robert Turner, Brittany Anderson-Montoya, Erik Prytz, and Becca Kennedy attended. They were able to share their recent work and to benefit from presentations and demonstrations. ODU and EVMS attendees had a strong presence at the conference.

Dr. Scerbo delivered a plenary address and several other presentations. The plenary address, entitled “Human Factors and Simulation: Limiting Iatrogenic Harm,” emphasized the importance of applying Human Factors principles to the training of healthcare professionals. The term ‘iatrogenic harm’ refers to harm that results from the activities of a healthcare provider. Dr. Scerbo posits that by incorporating better simulation-based training, medical residents can experience standardized practice and assessment that can help reduce iatrogenic harm.

The ODU graduate students presented five posters at IMSH. They were able to showcase several research projects that were completed during the past year. Robert Turner presented the poster “Teaching Communication Skills Using Standardized Patients in a Team Scenario: A G Theory Analysis,” which was the second place winner in the Outstanding Technology and Program Innovation category. Becca Kennedy presented a poster and gave a presentation for the fourth place winner in the Outstanding Research Abstract category, “Initial Laparoscopic Performance: Impoverished Visual-Spatial Cues Compromise Movements in the Depth Plane.”





## Human Factors in the News

by Alex Proaps

### The Touchy-Feely Future Of Technology

-- NPR.org, 12/26/11

HCI is a rapidly growing field of study. Consumers continue to demand touch-based technology, in particular, despite fundamental human factors issues associated with such technology. NPR interviewed Bill Buxton, a leader in human-computer interaction, and Sherry Turkle, director of MIT's Initiative on Technology and Self, about this form of technology.

From the NPR article:

"I wasn't trying to make a computer interface, I was just trying to make a drum," Buxton tells NPR's Robert Siegel. "Did I envision what was going to happen today, that it would be in everybody's pocket - in their smartphone? Absolutely not. Did we realize that things were going to be different, that you could do things that we never imagined? Absolutely."

Turkle says that's because touch-screen devices appeal to a sentiment that pretty much everyone can relate to: the desire to be a kid again.

"[The] fantasy of using your body to control the virtual is a child's fantasy of their body being connected to the world," Turkle says. "That's the child's earliest experience of the world and it kind of gets broken up by the reality that you're separate from the world. And what these phones do is bring back that fantasy in the most primitive way."



Image from NPR.org

### An Integrated Future of Health Care in the Year 2015

-- Core 77, 1/9/12

Ergonomidesign's strategists and "futuring" experts began analyzing macro, life science, social, and technology trends set ten to twenty years out. Core 77 describe some ways in which Ergonomidesign developed a vision of the future for Life Sciences in terms of how we might manage health and interact with doctors, family, and medical professionals and services by 2015.

From the Core77 article:

Our research suggested that as we move towards the future of health care, people will increasingly need to feel involved and in control of their own health.

Our aim was to illustrate the body as a container of biometric data. The simple act of placing your hand on 'a table' or any other type of smart surface, triggered an enlightened experience, e.g. you will be able to share and compare your biometric data with people you trust, subscribe to personalized treatment software and also have easy and constant access to your health care professionals.

In late 2010, we introduced miniMe. This futuristic medical device is a personalized monitoring device offering patients and their network constant access to bio data.

Core to the idea was that to support better interaction between people, devices and smart surfaces, it should be possible for all connected devices to be used separately or together with the Surface application. In concept, miniME uses biometric sensors placed on a patient's body to track health stats using RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) and NFC (Near Field Communication). It forwards their health stats through cloud computing so that patients, family members and HCPs can have constant access to data about their physical condition. Using selected shared networks, the data can also be viewed via mobile devices, other specialist medical devices and smart surfaces.

miniME recently won one of the world's most prestigious design awards, the IF product design award 2012.



Images from Core77.com