

Division of Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology

Division 21 of the American Psychological Association

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Message from the President Anne McLaughlin

I'd like to welcome everyone to the Division 21 Spring Newsletter for 2017. We've had a busy year, with a number of events and changes that I'm excited to tell you about.

First, Division 21 helped to sponsor [SHARC](#), a graduate student-organized conference held in Raleigh, NC. Conceived, fund-raised, and run entirely by students, this conference brought together members of graduate programs across the southeast to present their work as posters, learn about careers

in human factors, network with each other, and meet speakers in job domains desired by the students. Please see the section of this newsletter dedicated to the event written by two of the conference founders. Division 21 sponsored a poster session and handed out flyers recruiting new members for the division.

Second, the Division was contacted by APA member services this year to discuss ideas for growing membership. We are participating in a pilot program for APA where they will work with us on measuring and improving the benefits of belonging to APA, increasing our strengths, and working on our weaknesses. This is in progress, but some of the ideas we can look forward to are:



Jesse Farnsworth helps to recruit new student members for Div 21 at the SHARC Career Center

- 1) **APA is organizing a conference *Technology, Mind, and Society*, to be held in Washington DC on April 5-7, 2018.** This will be a science-oriented APA conference for divisions similar to ours. For example, Division 3 (Experimental Psychology) and Division 20 (Adult Development and Aging) may be involved. This cozier setting should promote more cross-division attendance and exploration. Our own president-elect, Robert Proctor, is part of the planning committee for this conference. Details about the conference and a call for papers will be made available within a few weeks.
- 2) **A series of webinars aimed at the issues our members care about (and our members-to-be).** The content is not yet determined, but could be cutting-edge work from scientists in our division and/or discussions of career paths and opportunities.
- 3) **Publications about our division in APA materials.** These might be highlights of individuals and their work or general articles on the impact of applied experimental psychology. Venues could include the APA Monitor and the APA Graduate Student site (APAGS).

Third, this year also brought major updates to [our division website](#), hosted by APA. Fully updated and reorganized, we now match the structure of other divisions in APA. Usability commentary was not invited, but despite some small issues deep in the menus, I think it is a step in a good direction.

Finally, we have an amazing lineup for the 2017 program at APA in Washington, D.C. this August. In addition to our award winners, we will be showcasing a symposium from the CREATE research team, who won the [APA Prize for Interdisciplinary Research](#) this year. Interdisciplinarity is a theme, with a second symposium focused on interdisciplinary work by our members. We also have a number of posters this year with some cross-cutting themes across divisions. As usual, all members are encouraged to attend the business meeting at the time set in the program.

Thank you all for your help this year - the support and institutional memory of the executive committee cannot be overstated. I was honored to be a part of continuing the traditions of our division.

Note from the Program Chair

Richard Pak

In addition to an exciting line up of posters that coalesced into a theme (robots, health, and virtual environments), we also have several symposia that promise to be very interesting.

First, is a session on the role that human factors plays in everyday living. A diverse panel ranging from practitioners at major corporations (GoogleX, Microsoft) to academia will discuss how engineering psychology applies in “the real world” of consumer products, hobbies, fashion, and entertainment.

Next, we have two symposia that focus on the synergism that comes from interdisciplinary research in human factors in tackling the problems of getting older and large-scale societal problems. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Division 21 Program for APA 2017, August 3-6, Washington D.C.

Thursday, August 3

Executive Committee Meeting

MM Salon 17 9am-9:50am

Invited Address: Raymond Nickerson Best Paper Award Recipient

CC Room 160 10am-10:50am
Dr. Sabrina Cohen-Hatton

Symposium: Human Factors—Helping with Everyday Living

CC Room 160 12pm-1:50pm
Co-chairs: Drs. Anne McLaughlin & Arathi Sethumadhaven
Discussants: Drs. Mac Smith & Tim Nichols

Symposium: Research on Aging and Technology from CREATE (APA Prize for Interdisciplinary Team Research)

CC Room 204A 1pm-2:50pm
Chair: Dr. Walter R. Boot
Participants: Drs. Sara J. Czaja, Neil Charness, Walter R. Boot, Wendy A. Rogers, Arthur D. Fisk, & Joseph Sharit
Discussant: Dr. Robin Barr

Symposium: Interdisciplinary Team Research

CC East Salon D 2pm-3:50pm
Co-chairs: Drs. Robert W. Proctor & Kim-Phuong L. Vu
Participants: Drs. Barbara Mellers, Thomas Eissenberg, Dana DeHart, Nancy Dess, Kim-Phuong Vu, & Robert Proctor

Invited Address: Briggs Dissertation Award

CC East Salon D 3pm-3:50pm
Dr. Sarah L. Riggs

Friday, August 4

Presidential Address

CC Room 148 10am-10:50am

Business Meeting

CC Room 148 11am-11:50am

Poster Session

CC Halls D & E 1pm-1:50pm

Invited Address: Earl Allusi Award for Early Career Achievement

CC Room 149B 4pm-4:50pm
Dr. Motonori Yamaguchi

Sunday, August 6

Invited Address: Franklin V. Taylor Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Psychologist to the Field of Applied Experimental Engineering

Psychology
CC Room 209B 9am-9:50am
Dr. Neil Charness

CREATE's PRISM Clinical Trial: Past and Present

Dustin J. Souders

Florida State University

The Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement (CREATE) team is composed of Division 21 members and past officers, such as Wendy Rogers, Sara Czaja, Wally Boot, Joseph Sharit, and Neil Charness. This project will be showcased at APA 2017.

Population aging trends project that individuals over the age of 65 will represent 21% of the U.S. population by 2050, with 5% of the population being over the age of 85. Increasing frequency and severity of health problems, along with issues with mobility, financial difficulties, and the loss of loved ones leave many older adults at risk for social isolation. Social isolation is associated with a wide range of negative outcomes including lower quality of life and life satisfaction, poorer mental and physical health, and cognitive decline. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as e-mail and videoconferencing could potentially combat the perception of loneliness that often accompanies social isolation, though evidence of efficacy in older populations is mixed, possibly due to differences between studied populations, the types of technologies assessed, as well as different outcome measures.

The CREATE team launched the PRISM (Personal Reminder Information and Social Management) system randomized controlled field trial in 2011 in three southern cities (Atlanta, Miami, and Tallahassee). It aimed to assess whether a personal computer system that included Internet and email software might combat the detrimental effects associated with social isolation in older adult populations compared to a more low-tech, familiar printed medium (a binder containing similar printed resources). This field trial followed 300 participants (half randomly assigned to PRISM, half to BINDER condition) for 12 months, providing training and instructional support to individuals at increased risk for social isolation who had no prior experience with the Internet or email. The PRISM system was specifically designed for older adults with minimal technology experience with human factors principles in mind. In addition to email and Internet, PRISM provided easy access to local and national resources, classroom activities on important topics related to independence, and access to a variety of games. All participants were able to learn the PRISM system despite initially low computer proficiency, and use was frequent over the 12 month study period. Results demonstrated that compared to the BINDER group, the PRISM group reported significantly less loneliness, along with increased feelings of social support and well-being after 6 months, but these gains were not maintained at 12 months. PRISM participants did show increased computer self-efficacy, proficiency, and comfort with computers after 6 and 12 months. A full report of the first PRISM trial's results can be found in upcoming issue of *The Gerontologist*, and is available for [advance access online now](#). These promising results have led the CREATE team to begin to investigate the potential benefits of PRISM in more diverse older adult populations.



A screenshot of the PRISM system

SHARC 2017: We're Going to Need a Bigger Boat!

Federico Scholcover & Laura Matalenas

North Carolina State University

On April 1, 2017, students of NC State's Human Factors & Applied Cognition PhD program hosted the first annual Southeastern Human Factors Applied Research Conference (SHARC) at NC State's James B. Hunt Library. The focus of the conference was on transitioning into careers and life in industry. Students from across the southeast attended and presented research during poster sessions at the conference, including students from Embry Riddle, the University of Central Florida, Georgia Tech, Old Dominion, Clemson, Auburn, George Mason, the University of Virginia, and NC State.

The opening remarks by Federico Scholcover, one of the conference chairs, stated three goals for the conference:

- Highlight the work being done by graduate students in human factors
- Give the students the ability to network with each other and industry groups
- Expose students to human factors careers in non-academic settings

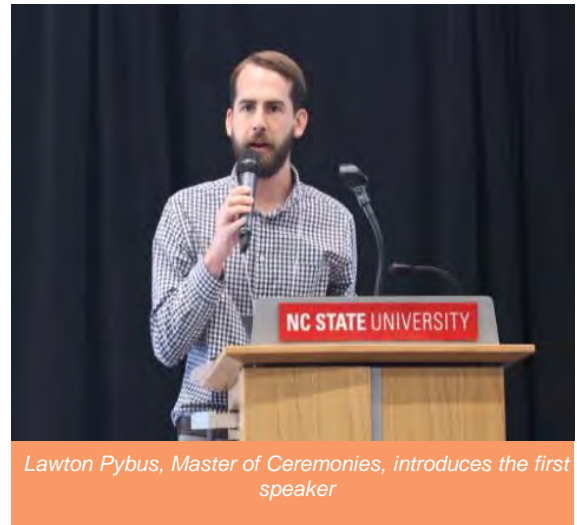
With 90 registrants in attendance, over 60 posters presented, and more than half a dozen companies represented, the conference unequivocally accomplished those goals.

The conference included presentations from Josh Hoffman of Deere & Co., Travis Bowles of Microsoft, Dr. Matt Marraffino of the Naval Air Warfare Training Systems Division, Dr. Mac Smith of X (formerly Google X), and a keynote by Astronaut and Principal Engineer at NASA, Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg. Each speaker discussed what it meant to be a human factors or user experience researcher in their company or field and to shared their experiences and work. For example, Mac Smith discussed research at X and the ways students could transition into a role in industry. He discussed topics from skills he wish he learned during graduate school to how students can create their own personal brand as a researcher, allowing for an animated discussion and leaving audience members brainstorming with each other about what makes them unique in their field.

Conference attendees also had the opportunity to interact with companies and organizations at SHARC's Career Center. Representatives from BB&T, Deere & Co., Microsoft, and Division 21 of the APA networked with conference participants about opportunities, collected resumes, and spent time discussing human factors careers in a one-on-one setting. One company known for their agricultural know-how even donated hats for attendees.

Finally, students participated in a pair of poster sessions, the first of which was sponsored by Division 21. Students presented their work while the speakers and company representatives wandered the halls, asking them about their research in a casual setting. The high-quality of these poster presentations led to many discussions and networking opportunities for students and industry professionals.

The success of the first annual SHARC was unquestionable and the students are thrilled to announce the location of next year's conference and invite attendees to SHARC 2018 in the coming weeks!



Lawton Pybus, Master of Ceremonies, introduces the first speaker

Membership in Division 21

Jeanine Stefanucci

A last note— If you have students, remind them that joining Division 21 is free for the first year. Membership makes them eligible for our awards and part of our network of psychology-oriented researchers. The membership form can be found [at this link](#).

If you know of other APA members whose research connects with Division 21, let them know that they can also join our division [for free the first year](#). Help them get to know us! We think they will find us valuable and will want to continue being members.