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## Alphonse Chapanis 1917–2002

It is with sadness but lasting admiration that I write about Alphonse Chapanis, Ph.D., CHFP, who passed away October 4, 2002. He experienced complications during knee surgery on the first day of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society 46th Annual Meeting in Baltimore and succumbed to his ailments on the closing day of the meeting.

Alphonse Chapanis was a retired professor emeritus of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, where he taught and conducted research on human factors problems for more than 35 years (1947–1982). Chapanis was an established giant in our collective fields of experimental and engineering psychology, human factors psychology, and ergonomics. I extract here numerous facts from his autobiography, *The Chapanis Chronicles* (Aegean Publishing Co., 1999, used with permission), peppered with my own recollections of “our professor,” who is widely acknowledged to be one of the founding fathers of the discipline.

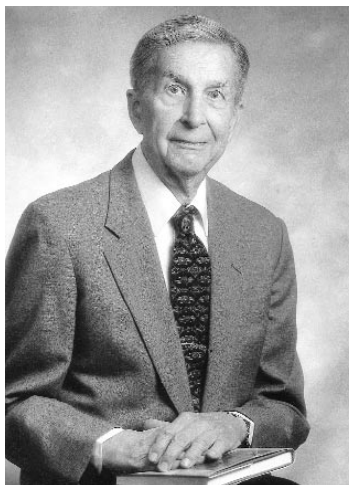
Chapanis graduated from Connecticut College for Women (now the University of Connecticut) and completed his graduate training at Yale (1942) before being commissioned in 1943 as a lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and trained and appointed as an aviation research psychologist. Chapanis was the first research psychologist assigned to the Aero Medical Laboratory (AML) at Wright Field, Ohio. There he became one of a handful of early human factors engineering professionals who researched user-interface problems with air force equipment and developed design solutions during World War II. Chapanis’s applied experimental psychological research work at AML included examinations of pilot errors, testing luminescent materials for cockpit displays, developing anoxia demonstration charts, and especially doing significant work on night vision and dark adaptation issues as well as on other human-machine interface issues for operators of advancing military systems being put through their paces in the second world war.

In 1945, while on a temporary duty assignment to Fort Knox, Kentucky, Chapanis assisted the Army’s Armored Medical Research Lab there to establish a night vision training program for Army ground forces. At the end of World War II, the AML psy-

chology research laboratory foundation had been set; and beginning in 1946, under the direction of Walt Grether and Paul Fitts, the AML psychology lab became what we now know as the Human Engineering Division of the USAF Armstrong Aero-medical Research Lab at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

In 1946, Chapanis accepted a position with the Johns Hopkins University’s Systems Research Field Laboratory at Beavertail Point, Narraganset Bay, Rhode Island, where he began a lengthy career doing Navy-sponsored research. He and the Systems Research Lab moved to Baltimore in 1948.

For 36 years, Chapanis and the Hopkins labs produced significant engineering psychological research as he trained numerous



*Alphonse Chapanis 1917–2002*

psychology students in experimental design, statistics, applied behavioral and psychological systems research, and especially in how to do useful human factors research. Like numerous other Hopkins grad students, I was privileged to work under the tutelage of Professor Chapanis. One of my appreciative memories includes the fact that even while I was an Army officer at Hopkins, my Ph.D. dissertation work in the mid-1970s was funded by the Office of Naval Research, and my work employed hardware and equipment that Chapanis ensured still proudly wore U.S. Navy labels as carryovers from those earliest ONR sponsorship days. Chapanis trained about 30 Ph.D. students in engineering and human factors psychology. Not only did we learn to do good basic and applied psychological research, but through participative editing, we

labored together with the professor over not only our publications but also his own. Who can forget his 1965 *Human Factors* article, “Words, Words, Words”?

Ever the educator, Chapanis did not limit his work to the Hopkins campus but contributed his knowledge to numerous industries in the United States and other countries. For more than 50 years, Chapanis consulted with industry and government, influenced the design of dozens of well-known systems and products, and tirelessly promoted ergonomics and human factors in the design of modern technology. Through these efforts he opened doors for our discipline in numerous new topical areas, including the development of communication systems and safety standards,

*continued on page 4*

## 2002 HFES Fellows and Awardees Honored

At the plenary session held October 1, 2002, at the 46th Annual Meeting, the Society recognized significant contributions to the field by honoring new Fellows and award recipients.

The newly elected HFES Fellows are **Thomas A. Dingus**, director, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, and Newport News Shipbuilding/Tenneco Professor at Virginia Tech's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; **Douglas J. Gillan**, professor, Department of Psychology, New Mexico State University; **Edmond W. Israelski**, human factors program manager, Corporate Regulatory and Quality, Abbott Laboratories; **Wendy A. Rogers**, professor, School of Psychology, Georgia Institute of Technology; and **Ronald G. Shapiro**, program manager, IBM Corporation, Enterprise-Wide Technical Learning Curriculum. The newly elected Honorary HFES Fellows are **Biman Das**, research professor, Department of Industrial Engineering, Dalhousie University; **Richard D. Gilson**, professor, Department of Psychology, University of Central Florida; and **Valeri F. Venda**, human factors usability expert, DST Systems, Inc.

Mark St. John of Pacific Science and Engineering Group, Michael B. Cowan of Space and Naval Warfare System Center, and Harvey S. Smallman and Heather M. Oonk of Pacific Science and Engineering Group received the **2002 Jerome H. Ely Human Factors Article Award** for their paper, "The Use of 2D and 3D Displays for Shape-Understanding versus Relative-Position Tasks" (Volume 43, No. 1, Spring 2001).

The recipient of the **2002 Distinguished International Colleague Award** was Margaret Bullock of the University of Queensland, Australia. Bullock was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the development of ergonomics in Australia and around the world. As former president of the Ergonomics Society of Australia, she served for seven years as chair of the IEA Education and Training Committee and continues to serve as chair of the Accreditation Subcommittee.


The Society presented the **2002 Paul M. Fitts Education Award** to Richard D. Gilson of the University of Central Florida. Gilson received this award for outstanding contributions and dedication to the education and training of human factors and ergonomics specialists.

Valerie J. Gawron of Veridian Engineering was recognized with the **2002 A. R. Lauer Safety Award** for her achievements in increasing safety through research and applications of human factors principles. Her work has had an impact on the fields of aviation and ground transportation, nuclear power safety, security systems, situational awareness, and human performance and training systems.

Sheryl L. Miller received the **2002 Alphonse Chapanis Best Student Paper Award** for "Window of Opportunity: Using the Interruption Lag to Manage Disruption in Complex Tasks."


The **2002 Jack A. Kraft Innovator Award** was given to David D. Woods of Ohio State University. The award recognizes Woods's unique combination of roles as an innovative researcher and a strong advocate.

The **2002 Best Ergonomics in Design Article Award** was presented to Wendy A. Rogers of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Amy L. Mykityshyn of the Georgia Tech Research Institute, and Regan H. Campbell and Arthur D. Fisk of the Georgia Institute of Technology for their article, "Analysis of a 'Simple' Medical Device" (Volume 9, No. 1, Winter 2001).

The recipient of the **Arnold M. Small President's Distinguished Service Award** was Harry L. Snyder. The award was given in recognition of Snyder's exceptional service to HFES and seminal contributions to vision science, and for founding a leading university program that has trained generations of human factors professionals. 

## 2003 Membership Dues Renewal

The 2003 dues renewal packets will be in the mail soon, and we thank you in advance for renewing your membership for 2003. Renew to help HFES support your professional needs, to strengthen the field of human factors/ergonomics, and to maintain uninterrupted delivery of *Human Factors*, *Ergonomics in Design*, and the *HFES Bulletin*. Renew early to save \$15 on postage surcharge fees. The deadline for the receipt of dues is January 31, 2003.

The dues renewal packet includes your contact information. Please update your member listing by visiting the On-line Member Directory at <http://hfes.org> or by calling HFES at 310/394-1811. You will need your member ID, the five-digit number on the mailing label of this issue, to access your file. Changes submitted through January 31, 2003, will be included in the 2003-2004 *HFES Directory and Yearbook*. 



## Bulletin

Volume 45, Number 10      October 2002

The *HFES Bulletin* (ISSN 1527-3660) is published monthly by the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, 1124 Montana Ave., Suite B, Santa Monica, CA 90403 USA, <http://hfes.org>. Address inquiries and address changes to HFES, P.O. Box 1369, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1369 USA, 310/394-1811, fax 310/394-2410.

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## Invitation for Fellow Nominations

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society's Fellows Selection Committee hereby invites nominations for Fellows and Honorary Fellows of the Society to be elected in 2003. "Fellow" is a special class of Society membership, as established in the Bylaws, Article I, Section 4.

Election to Fellow status is an honor conferred by distinguished colleagues to recognize outstanding achievement, consistently superior professional performance, exceptional contributions, personal service to the Society, and other meritorious accomplishments by Society Members. For Honorary Fellows, there is no criterion of service to the Society. Any voting Member of the Society in good standing (except members of the Fellows Selection Committee) may initiate a nomination by completing the nomination forms for Fellow. No limitation is placed on the number of times a Member may be nominated for election to Fellow or Honorary Fellow.

Prospective nominating Members should carefully review the rules and regulations for Fellow designation and the guide for preparing the contribution statement for nomination of HFES Fellows prior to initiating the process. These documents will be included in the nomination package provided to nominating members.

The nominating member must solicit recommendations from three other voting Members who are willing to provide written recommendations in support of the candidate. The meritorious contributions of the nominee on which the nomination is based must be detailed in the nomination form and must be supported by evidentiary documentation and included with the package.

The Fellow Nomination Package, including instructions, nomination and recommendation forms, and supporting information, may be obtained from HFES, P.O. Box 1369, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1369, or email Carlos de Falla, carlos@hfes.org. The completed nomination package (nomination form, recommendation form, nominee's vitae or résumé, and supporting documentation) must be received by the Fellows Selection Committee at the HFES central office on or before **February 3, 2003**. Nominations approved by at least two-thirds of the Fellows Selection Committee and a majority of the full Executive Council will be recommended for approval to all Fellows by mail ballot. The incoming chair of the Fellows Selection Committee is Alvah C. Bittner, Jr. ☒

## Erratum

The pages of "Effects of Load and Posture on the Recruitment of Trunk Muscles" by Sean Gallagher, William S. Marras, and Kermit G. Davis appear out of order in the *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society 46th Annual Meeting*. The page currently published as the second page of the article (page 1072) should actually be the last page. For a corrected version of the article, please contact Alexandra Sartor at 310/394-1811 or alex@hfes.org. ☒

## Call for Aging Special Section Papers

By *Mustapha Mouloua and Peter A. Hancock*  
Special Section Editors

Manuscript submissions are invited for a special section of *Human Factors* entitled "Aging and Human Performance."

Advancement in medical technologies and general public health continue to increase average lifespan. As a result of such developments, more than 20 million adults in the United States are currently 65 years of age or older (U.S. Census Bureau). Most of these people attempt to remain active in the workforce to cope with increased financial and economic challenges. The extent to which aging affects human capabilities is the subject of continuing research; however, many societal age barriers are based on chronological age, not functional capacity. Thus, there is a crucial need to address systematically the effects of aging on human performance as it applies to capabilities related to a variety of such systems.

We invite submissions that include empirical work related to aging and human performance as they apply to a variety of human-machine systems. Although the focus of this special issue is on applied research, theoretical and analytical review papers are also sought. We encourage everyone doing research in aging and human performance to submit their work by the deadline indicated below.

Please submit five copies of your manuscript by **March 1, 2003**, to Editor, *Human Factors*, "Aging and Human Performance," P.O. Box 1369, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1369 USA.

Please contact the special section editors at mouloua@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu (Mustapha Mouloua) or hancock@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu (Peter Hancock) if you have any questions.

## Call for Driver Distraction Special Section Papers

By *John D. Lee and David L. Strayer*  
Special Section Editors

Manuscript submissions are invited for a special section of *Human Factors* entitled: "Driver Distraction."


The ongoing controversy regarding cellular telephones and their effect on driving safety has generated substantial public concern regarding the danger posed by these devices. Beyond cellular telephones, new wireless, Internet, and voice recognition technology has introduced Internet content and e-mail to cars. The next generation of communication technology could be far more distracting for drivers. Papers in this special section will contribute to the ongoing debate regarding the effect of these devices on driving safety. The goal is to highlight important findings, clarify research directions, and compare useful research and evaluation methods.

*continued on next page*

We invite submissions that address driver distraction and driving safety from any of a variety of methodological perspectives including simulator experiments, test track experiments, on-road experiments, naturalistic studies and observations, and epidemiological studies of crash reports. Submissions can consider the role of hand-held and hands-free cell phones and other wireless communication and in-vehicle information systems. Beyond examining the effect of technology on distraction, we also invite papers addressing the role of more common distractions and driving

safety concerns associated with such activities as eating, grooming, and listening to the radio. Although the focus of this special section is applied research, review and analytic papers are also sought.

Please submit five copies of your manuscript by **February 1, 2003** to Editor, *Human Factors*, "Driver Distraction," P.O. Box 1369, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1369 USA

Please contact the special section editors at [jdlee@engineering.uiowa.edu](mailto:jdlee@engineering.uiowa.edu) (John D. Lee) or [david.strayer@csbs.utah.edu](mailto:david.strayer@csbs.utah.edu) (David L. Strayer) if you have any questions. 

*Alphonse Chapanis 1917–2002 (continued from page 1)*

designing for the handicapped and the aged, and intercultural aspects of human factors. He authored, coauthored, or edited numerous books, including the first textbook in our field: *Applied Experimental Psychology: Human Factors in Engineering Design* (with W. Garner and C. Morgan in 1949); *Research Techniques in Human Engineering* (1959); *Human Engineering Guide to Equipment Design* (with C. Morgan, J. Cook, and M. Lund in 1963); *Man-Machine Engineering* (1965); *Ethnic Variables in Human Factors Engineering* (1975); *Human Factors in Systems Engineering* (1996); and *The Chapanis Chronicles: 50 Years of Human Factors Research, Education, and Design* (1999).

Many of Chapanis's texts were used by colleagues in such diverse places as much of Western Europe, Russia, China, Japan, India, and even several former Soviet satellite countries. Leaders of engineering psychology and ergonomics centers in most of those countries count his works and his lectures as foundation texts. Chapanis endeared himself to many, presenting lectures in their countries in their native language. Among the countless testimonies to Chapanis the week after his death was contained in a simple e-mail message from China, for which the byline read simply: "Professor Chapanis – we never forget him."

Alphonse Chapanis was president of the American Psychological Association (APA) Division 21: Society for Engineering Psychologists (1959–1960). He served as president of the Human Factors Society (1963) and as President of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA, 1976–1979). He was instrumental in the inception and development of the Human Factors Society (as it was then called) with innovations that included initiating the "From the President" column for the *Bulletin* (1963), establishing a permanent administrative management position; pushing for the establishment of a permanent home for the Society in Santa Monica (1964); and initiating the tradition of an address by the outgoing president at the annual meeting (1965).

He accomplished similar innovations for IEA. He gave a memorable keynote address, "Old World, New World, One World," at the University of Maryland, site of the first joint Human Factors Society Annual Meeting and IEA Triennial Congress. As I recall, he stood stately, ever-present bowtie affixed, in front of a very large photo of Thomas Jefferson as he cited our discipline's ties to human rights pursuits. He called the new Occupational Safety and Health Act and similar laws in other


countries "ahead of their time" because we in the scientific communities had yet to establish sufficient behavioral databases with which to enforce workers' rights.

Chapanis was a Fellow of the APA, HFES, and the Ergonomics Society. He received the APA Division 21 Franklin V. Taylor Award for outstanding contributions to the field of engineering psychology in 1973. In 1978, he received the HFES Paul M. Fitts Award for outstanding contributions to human factors education. He also was honored by the APA with the 1978 Distinguished Contribution for Applications in Psychology Award as "a founder of the field of engineering psychology and for his pioneering research leadership over a 35-year period."

It is for Chapanis's long and distinguished career in teaching and research at Johns Hopkins that most of us knew him best. Perhaps a bit less well known is the fact that after retiring from Hopkins, Chapanis immersed himself in a second career, embellishing his 36-year professional consulting relationship with the IBM Corporation. For at IBM, along with his colleague John Shafer, he engaged in high-level industrial consulting, teaching, and lecturing. Together they introduced thousands of IBM engineers and managers to the human factors/ergonomics design philosophy. Some of that work is outlined in Chapanis's 1996 book, *Human Factors in Systems Engineering*. When told of Chapanis's passing, John Shafer said, "Alphonse Chapanis's passing is the end of an era in human factors." Many of us will agree.

Alphonse Chapanis was indeed a pioneer – a giant in our field. He cherished his work and his students. As one of his numerous graduate students, I sense Professor Chapanis always had a special appreciation for the recognition conferred by the Paul Fitts Award for his work as an educator and professor. The naming of the HFES award for the best student paper presented at an annual meeting was a special tribute he cherished. Above all, Chapanis was ever the teacher, even in preparing his *Chronicles*. Alphonse Chapanis has always been a faithful guiding mentor, a true friend of those of us who had the privilege of studying and doing research with this magnanimous man. We will all miss him dearly.

Alphonse Chapanis is survived by his wife, Vivian Woodward Chapanis; his two children, Roger Chapanis and Linda Chapanis Fox; Linda's two sons; four stepchildren; and seven grandchildren.

– Gerald (Jerry) Krueger 

## HFES Welcomes New Members

The following individuals joined the Society in the months of July, August, and September. Their membership applications are subject to final ratification by the HFES Executive Council at its next meeting.

### Members

Ashraful Akter  
Linda S. Angell  
Janice T. Davis  
David C. Dunkle  
David E. Embrey  
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Timothy E. Goldsmith  
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Kristen Miller  
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Richard Steinberg  
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Townsend Anschutz  
Keith M. Baker  
Bonnie S. Baker  
Yan Bao  
Patti Bender  
Kenneth Bergquist  
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Roberta V. Salerno  
Brian N. Salmon  
Michelle Sams  
Martha J. Sanders  
Melinda P. Seller  
Renee Slick  
Beth Sloane  
Patrick Tissington  
William J. Van Mater  
Savita A. Verma  
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Pete C. Wetzel  
Robb Wilcox  
Michele M. Wilson  
Takura Yanagi

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Yim Lee Au  
Anne M. Binhack  
C. Travis Bowles  
Brian E. Brooks  
William Burge  
Robert G. Capra  
Andrea L. Cassano  
Jeng Yan Chen  
Jason W. Clark  
Elizabeth D. Covalla  
Brian Cullinane  
Jason D'Orazio  
Awni J. Dababneh  
Mirna H. Daouk  
Todd V. Denning  
Srinivas Edala  
Alireza Edraki  
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Gregory Fitch  
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Timothy M. Follrath  
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# Bulletin

Volume 45, Number 10 October 2002

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Advertising: R. C. Publitz & Associates,  
818/992-0366

## POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to the HFES Bulletin,  
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society,  
P.O. Box 1369, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1369 USA,  
310/394-1811, fax 310/394-2410.

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**F L A S H !**

**Deadline for receipt of  
2003 Dues: January 31, 2003.**

**Deadline for nominating  
candidates for Fellow:  
February 3, 2003.**

**Deadline for submitting 47th  
Annual Meeting Proposals:  
March 4, 20003.**



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