Two New HFES Awards Announced
By Michelle M. Robertson, Awards Chair

HFES is pleased to announce the establishment of two new Society-wide awards, approved by Executive Council, to be presented at the next annual HFES meeting in October. These awards were created to recognize early-career members who have demonstrated extraordinary and meritorious contributions. The Awards Committee encourages you to consider submitting a nomination package to recognize deserving HFES members for early-career achievement.

The William C. Howell Young Investigator Award, established in 2013, provides an award plaque to an HFES member who is recognized for demonstrating outstanding contributions through professional scientific contributions as a young investigator. The Howell Award recognizes exceptional potential for leadership, both in the HF/E scientific discipline and at the frontiers of knowledge as demonstrated by scientific, scholarly publications and national and international conference presentations. This award, which will be chaired by Nancy Cooke, recognizes the talent, creativity, and influence of a single young researcher who has made these significant contributions:

- Influencing the HF/E scientific profession through creative and innovative research
- Leading the discipline of HF/E with scholarly research activities and studies
- Participating in national and international HF/E conferences
- Increasing the scientific recognition of the HF/E profession
- Encouraging others to become more involved in HF/E research and scientific endeavors

The Bentzi Karsh Early-Career Service Award, established in 2013, provides an award plaque to an HFES member recognized for demonstrating outstanding contributions to the Society through professional service and outreach activities as a student and early-career professional. The Karsh Award, which will be chaired by Brian Kleiner, recognizes a member’s leadership in developing innovative programs and successfully implementing them to grow the field and enhance the reputation of HF/E. This award also recognizes the impact that an individual has had on raising public awareness of HF/E science and who has made these significant contributions:

- Leading HFES with innovative program ideas as well as implementation
- Participating in HFES committees, technical groups, publications, activities, and task forces
- Growing and increasing recognition of the HF/E profession

For both awards, the candidates must be HFES members currently in good standing and within seven years of graduation with a degree in HF/E or a related field. The information required to support a candidate’s nomination for either award will include a résumé or curriculum
Entries Invited for Product Design Award
By Dianne McMullin & Stanley H. Caplan, PDTG Award Committee Cochairs

Win $1,000 and the recognition of your peers! The Product Design Technical Group (PDTG) invites you to submit a nomination for the 2014 Stanley H. Caplan User-Centered Product Design Award. The award emphasizes both product design and the methods used to specify and achieve the design. There is no entry fee for the award, which is now open to members as well as nonmembers of HFES and PDTG. Any HF/E professional, product designer, or product team may participate. Feel free to relay this information to potentially interested nonmember colleagues.

Consideration will be given to products, software, or systems that are used in the home, in the workplace, or while mobile, including consumer, commercial, and medical products but excluding military equipment or systems. The product or system being nominated must be operational and capable of being placed into regular service with no more than minimal changes. Products must have been on the market for fewer than three years.

The winners will be recognized at an award ceremony on October 28 at the 2014 HFES International Annual Meeting in Chicago, and they will be asked to give a presentation on the product and process used for its development. The awardees will also be expected to submit a paper to Ergonomics in Design within two months of the meeting.

Call For Nominations
Nominations should be submitted electronically to Dianne McMullin by June 6. You may submit a nomination for your own work or the work of others. Complete submission details, including submission format and judging criteria, as well as information about past winners, can be found on the PDTG Web site.

The winner(s) and any honorable mentions will be determined by a panel of PDTG judges in August. Questions about the 2014 PDTG Stanley H. Caplan User-Centered Product Design Award may be directed to Dianne McMullin.

National Ergonomics Month and World Usability Day: Human Factors Outreach Through Multidisciplinary Collaboration
By Alex Proaps & Becca Kennedy

We need to explore more opportunities and methods for HF/E members to learn about how and where to do outreach—both in their daily work lives and through service opportunities. – Camille Peres, 2013 Professionalism Division Chair

In 2013, members of local and student organizations in the Tidewater region of Virginia stepped out of their comfort zones to collaborate on community outreach and educational events. Members of Old Dominion University’s (ODU) HFES student chapter, the Norfolk chapter of the User Experience Professionals Association (UXPA), the Tidewater chapter of HFES, and employees of local businesses shared a vision: to provide a collaborative environment for professionals in these fields to come together to increase public awareness and understanding of HF/E and user experience (UX) and to challenge, engage, and learn from one another. Here we describe our outreach efforts.
Our work as HF/E professionals often involves collaboration with other disciplines and domains such as health care, government, education, and industry. Beyond the workplace, however, opportunities for collaboration might be less obvious. In last year’s spotlight on the HFES Professionalism Division, former division chair Camille Peres outlined some ways in which HFES supports HF/E professionals’ efforts in establishing and maintaining high professional standards. Peres reminded us that upholding such high standards means we can help ensure that human-machine interaction is effective, efficient, and safe for everyone. She also outlined areas in which we can continue to improve our efforts to contribute to the development of the field. For example, we can engage in mentoring and service, stay current in our field by being active in local organizations and attending conferences, and educate the general public about HF/E through outreach.

Members of ODU HFES, Tidewater HFES, UXPA Norfolk, and other local organizations took part in several collaborative informational, educational, and social events last year. Morgan Kaufman, CRC Press, and A Book Apart provided free books each month for raffles and trivia contests. Remote guest lecturers included noted HF/E and UX professionals such as Don Norman, Steve Krug, and Luke Wroblewski. In-person guest lecturers and panelists included local and regional usability analysts, front-end developers, communications analysts, entrepreneurs, software engineers, and content strategists. Whereas most of the events were organized around the UX community, two highlights of 2013 for HF/E professionals and students in the Tidewater region included events for National Ergonomics Month and World Usability Day.

National Ergonomics Month Event: “What Is Human Factors?”

October is National Ergonomics Month, designated by HFES as a month dedicated to spreading awareness of the HF/E field. The HFES ODU Student Chapter and the Norfolk chapter of UXPA cosponsored an event entitled “What is Human Factors?” The evening was aimed at educating undergraduate students and the local community about the kinds of work human factors practitioners undertake.

A panel of three speakers described their experiences in the HF/E field: Poornima Madhavan and James Bliss, both from ODU, and Candace Eschelman-Haynes from NATO. The panel was followed by tours of ODU human factors labs, which were led by graduate students. There was plenty of time for questions and discussions throughout the evening, and attendees expressed that they found the event enlightening. By opening our doors and inviting others into the ODU labs, we were able to effectively demonstrate our research and its implications, as well as showcase the broad scope of HF/E.

World Usability Day Event: Web and Survey Design Workshop

World Usability Day (WUD) in November is an annual day of worldwide events that aim to bring together the usability and UX communities for celebration and education. In honor of WUD 2013, UXPA Norfolk hosted the Web and Survey Usability Workshop, which was presented by Jennifer Romano Bergstrom from the DC Metro chapter of UXPA. ODU human factors graduate students and local UX professionals (Web developers, Web designers, graphic artists, etc.) attended the workshop and discussed issues and best practices of Web and survey design. Going beyond simple design guidelines and checklists, the information provided in the workshop was grounded in empirical research. Romano Bergstrom, who has training as an experimental psychologist, also emphasized effective assessment techniques.

The event provided a means for individuals with varying backgrounds to share their experiences and learn from one another. Attendees with an HF/E background learned more about design, and attendees with a design or development background learned more about experimental testing methods. In many real-world settings, usability and UX teams are multidisciplinary, and
it is valuable to understand others’ strengths and viewpoints in multidisciplinary teams. This WUD event proved to be a successful exercise in outreach and understanding.

**Toward a Shared Vision**

Eduardo Salas echoed his midyear address at the 2013 HFES Annual Meeting by stating the importance of working together for the common good. In this article, we wanted to highlight examples of successful outreach involving individuals who had a shared vision for the future of improving technology-human interaction across multiple domains. It is important to remember that as HF/E professionals, we are not alone in our ability and desire to contribute to the betterment of humans and their interaction with technology.

**Acknowledgments**

We extend special thanks to Felix Portnoy for his vision and initiative in leading this collaborative effort in 2013. We would also like to highlight the invaluable contributions of the HFES ODU Student Chapter. Also, thank you to Camille Peres, James Bliss, and Eduardo Salas for inspiring us to follow our passion for outreach and building bridges across disciplines.

> Alex Proaps and Becca Kennedy are human factors psychology PhD students at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Alex’s primary areas of interest are individual and team training in virtual environments and serious games, and human-computer interaction. Becca primarily conducts research involving the design and use of simulation and virtual characters for training in health care. Both are passionate about human factors outreach and are active in a number of student and professional human factors and user experience organizations.

**Health-Care Symposium Program Announced**

The full program schedule has been released for the 2014 International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care: Leading the Way, to be held March 16–19 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. Hosted by GfK, the event will present the latest HF/E research, best practices, and case histories in the health-care domain. Unique to this symposium is the inclusion of manufacturers, health-care providers and policy makers, who will discuss their experiences in using HF/E processes and principles and their unique needs for HF/E science and considerations.

The keynote speaker for the symposium is Lisa Sanders, MD. An assistant clinical professor at the Yale University School of Medicine and a clinician educator in Yale’s Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency Program, Sanders writes the popular monthly “Diagnosis” column in The New York Times Magazine, which was the inspiration for the acclaimed Fox television program House M.D. In her address, she will discuss how doctors deal with diagnostic dilemmas, examining a collection of difficult medical diagnosis cases from both patient and physician perspectives. She will also discuss the human factors/ergonomics implications of common misdiagnoses and how both low- and high-technology approaches can improve diagnostic success rates.

Register today to take advantage of early-bird rates, which end on February 2. Reserve your room at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers at the special symposium rate of $189/person, single or double occupancy.

Bookmark the main symposium Web page for regular updates.
Submit Nominations for 2014 Fellows and Awards

HFES Full Members and Fellows are invited to submit nominations for new Fellows and eight Society awards, which will be presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Fellows

Fellow is a special class of Society membership, as established in the HFES Bylaws. Individuals may apply for Fellow status on their own behalf, or they may submit a nomination on behalf of another.

The Fellow nomination package (including instructions, nomination and recommendation forms, and supporting information) may be obtained from the Fellows page. You may also contact HFES Director of Member Services Carlos de Falla. Completed Fellow nomination packages must be received at the HFES office on or before February 3.

Awards

Nominees are not required to be HFES members. Submissions are due on or before March 28. To nominate,

- submit the candidate’s résumé or curriculum vitae, a nominating letter, and at least two but not more than three letters of support from individuals who know the candidate well enough to assess his or her candidacy in terms of the award’s criteria; and
- send all nomination packages via e-mail to Lynn Strother. Please submit the package as a single file in PDF format.

For more information on the scope and criteria for HFES awards, please view the HFES Awards Web page.

List Your Consulting and Expert Witness Services with HFES

HFES is pleased to provide a searchable directory of human factors/ergonomics consultants and expert witnesses. If you’re a Full Member or Fellow and provide these services, HFES invites you to purchase a listing in the online Consultants Directory, which is freely available to anyone who visits the HFES Web site.

The fees for an annual listing are $150 for individuals and $250 for companies; listing renewal rates are $100 for individuals and $200 for companies. A company must have at least two HFES Full Members or Fellows on full-time staff.

If you are a current HFES member and you would like to place or renew a listing, log in at http://www.hfes.org, and select “Create a Consultant Listing” on the Welcome page. If you have any questions, please contact the Member Services Department at 310/394-1811 or membership@hfes.org.

Renew Your Membership

It pays to stay connected to your network of colleagues and maintain access to new developments in the field. HFES remains committed to providing its members with essential tools and networking opportunities. With your support and involvement, the Society will continue to further your professional goals, increase global impact, and expand the range of HFES publications, products, and services. Just log in at hfes.org with your username and password and click “Renew.”
Submit Your Work for the 2014 Annual Meeting

HFES has opened the online Call for Proposals for the 2014 International Annual Meeting, which will take place October 27–31 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Case studies, debates, demonstrations, competitive product designs, new methodologies, on-site experiments, and posters are welcome. HFES especially invites special-format sessions and presentations from invited speakers who bring their perspectives from areas related to human factors/ergonomics, identifying areas in which HF/E work is needed.

Only papers that have not been published previously or presented at another professional meeting may be submitted. All research and analyses described in a proposal must be complete at the time of the submission. Papers that do not present completed work will be rejected. The sole exception to this policy is for student work submitted for consideration in the Student Forum track, in which case the proposer may report on work in progress.

The deadline for submitting any type of proposal is March 3. Before submitting your work, please read the Call for Proposals thoroughly.

Note that for all accepted submissions, one of the authors must attend the meeting to present the work. All presenters are required to pay the meeting registration fee. For questions on the submission process, please contact Lois Smith at 310/394-1811.

PUBLIC POLICY MATTERS

Bipartisan Budget Agreement Cleared by Congress, Paving the Way for an Omnibus Appropriations Bill

By Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

On December 26, 2013, President Obama signed a into law a bipartisan budget agreement that will restore funding to the appropriations process for both fiscal years (FY) 2014 and 2015 and avoid further threat of a government shutdown. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees must now negotiate a final FY 2014 Continuing Resolution (CR)/omnibus appropriations bill before the current CR expires on January 15. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have done the preparatory work to outline differences in pending bills. The full Appropriations Committee will provide each subcommittee with its spending allocation within the overall total of $1.012 trillion agreed to in the final budget agreement. Each subcommittee will begin negotiations over the holidays to write its chapter of an omnibus bill to complete the FY 2014 appropriations process.

On December 18, the U.S. Senate gave final approval to the modest budget agreement. Twelve Senate Republicans joined all Senate Democrats and two Independents in providing the supermajority vote to end debate on the Continuing Resolution (H.J. Res. 59) that carried the final budget agreement. The budget agreement was then adopted by the Senate on a 64 to 36 vote. Prior to the Senate vote, and in a dramatic reversal from the 16-day government shutdown in October, on December 12, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the budget agreement on a 332 to 94 vote.

The key elements of the bipartisan budget agreement would do the following:

- Provide $63 billion over two years above the potential sequester to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for purposes of writing the FY 2014 and FY 2015 spending bills. These funds would be split evenly between defense and nondefense spending. The
new spending level provides flexibility to the Appropriations Committees to sustain funding for federal science agencies, and education programs, including student aid.

- Provide an overall spending level of $1.012 trillion for FY 2014. This level is about halfway between the House budget resolution and potential sequester level of $967.5 billion, and the Senate budget resolution spending cap of $1.058 trillion. Within this total, $491.8 billion would be provided for nondefense discretionary spending for FY 2014, an increase of $22.4 billion above the current law (sequester) level. The agreement sets FY 2015 spending for nondefense programs at $492.5 billion, an increase of $9.3 billion above the current law (sequester) level.

- Save an additional $28 billion by extending certain mandatory savings, most of which is the 2% reduction to Medicare providers, for an additional two years (through FY 2023) beyond the Budget Control Act of 2011.

- Include a package of legislative savings from mandatory programs, user fees, and miscellaneous program reforms and changes totaling $85 billion over 10 years to offset the additional funding provided to the Appropriations Committees to help alleviate the sequester. The net deficit reduction would be approximately $23 billion under this agreement.

The big winner in the budget agreement is the Department of Defense and related programs, which faced the full brunt of the anticipated $20 billion sequester in January. The budget agreement would provide a total of $520.5 billion for defense discretionary programs in FY 2014 and $521.4 billion in FY 2015, increases of $22.4 billion and $9.3 billion, respectively.

Additional information is available in the following documents: the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013; the legislative language of the agreement; a complete list of the savings provisions included in the budget agreement; and the cost estimate of the bill by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

Although the budget agreement passed with bipartisan support, this action does not address the debt limit, which will again need to be raised sometime in the spring of 2014. Although neither party wants another government shutdown, there is no current consensus on how Congress will proceed on the debt ceiling, particularly as Members increasingly turn their focus to the 2014 midterm elections.


On December 12, the House of Representatives passed a compromise version of the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as Congress scrambled to finish the legislation before leaving town for the holidays. House passage was the first step to “ping-pong” the bill between the House and Senate to secure final passage. The bill then passed the Senate late on December 19 and was sent to President Obama who signed the bill into law on December 26. Leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees (HASC/SASC) negotiated the compromise NDAA in an attempt to fast-track final passage of a bill that had been delayed throughout the year due to partisan debates.

This is the 52nd consecutive year in which Congress has passed the NDAA, which sets the limits at which Department of Defense (DOD) programs can be funded and establishes defense policy guidelines for the fiscal year. However, even the historically bipartisan NDAA has become a heavy lift in an increasingly polarized Congress.

The compromise NDAA negotiated by HASC Chairman Buck McKeon (R–CA) and SASC Chairman Carl Levin (D–MI), along with Ranking Members Adam Smith (D–WA) and Jim Inhofe (R–OK), authorizes a total of $625.1 billion for FY 2014. This amount includes $526.8 billion in base funding for DOD, $80.7 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for the war in Afghanistan, and $17.6 billion for nuclear weapons programs at the Depart-
ment of Energy. These amounts are similar to those in President Obama’s FY 2014 budget request as well as in the House and Senate budget resolutions.

The amounts violate the cap on defense spending set by the Budget Control Act of 2011 but are closer to the levels included for defense programs in the FY 2014 budget agreement struck by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R–WI) and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D–WA). Authorization levels are often higher than the amounts at which programs are funded through the annual appropriations process.

The authorized levels for defense research, development, test, and evaluation (RDTE) programs reflect bipartisan, bicameral support for DOD’s continued technological advancement. A total of $67.74 billion is in the compromise NDAA for RDTE programs, including just under $12 billion for defense science and technology (6.1–6.3; basic research, applied research, and advanced technology development) programs. Although the levels contained in the FY 2014 compromise NDAA are positive for universities and other nonprofit research institutions, these programs could see significant reductions in FY 2015. DOD officials suggest that research and other “investment” accounts could be cut by up to 20% in the President’s FY 2015 budget request as Pentagon leadership prioritizes operations and readiness.

The compromise NDAA also contains policy provisions of interest to the research community, including the following:

**HASC and SASC leadership accept a Senate provision changing requirements for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) strategic plan.** The compromise NDAA would shift responsibility for producing the plan from the Secretary of Defense to the DARPA director, who would also be required to place a greater emphasis on how the agency’s high-risk work supports future defense operations. This provision reflects a growing desire among policymakers for DOD-funded research, including basic research, to align with defense priorities. Members of Congress and DOD officials have suggested that DOD should fund less research that may be supported by other agencies (e.g., some types of biomedical research) as planned spending levels decline.

**HASC and SASC members remain concerned about the state of DOD’s national laboratories.** The compromise NDAA includes an extension of authority for DOD national labs to make infrastructure improvements and other “revitalizations” through a previously authorized program. As Lewis-Burke has reported, HASC and SASC staff and Administration officials worry about an erosion of DOD’s internal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) capacity.

**The compromise NDAA adopts a provision included in the House bill to authorize a five-year proof-of-concept pilot program to be administered by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.** The program, which would be open to research universities, would provide grants of up to $500,000 to accelerate the transition of basic research to defense-ready technologies. The pilot program would be authorized through FY 2018.

**The compromise bill rejects a provision in the House NDAA that would have required DOD to assess whether existing programs—including the Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) program—could meet the undergraduate STEM workforce needs of the intelligence community.** Although the provision is omitted from the final bill, the explanatory report notes the challenges faced by DOD and the IC in attracting the next-generation STEM workforce. The bill does not authorize an expansion of the SMART program to meet the needs of the intelligence community. Expect HASC and SASC members to remain focused on DOD’s STEM workforce challenges in the coming year.

**Mental health among service members and veterans remains a top concern for HASC and SASC leaders.** The bill authorizes numerous provisions aimed at improving mental health treatment for service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, including those suffering from
traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder. The bill also seeks to enhance mental health care for National Guard members.

Research and development provisions were among the least controversial issues considered during development of the NDAA. Divisive issues such as how to prosecute sexual assaults in the military, the fate of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, whether to proceed with a missile defense shield on the East Coast, and the future of several large weapons programs were among the debates that delayed progress on the NDAA.

*Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, a leading Washington, D.C.–based government relations and consulting firm, represents the public policy interests of scientific societies and institutions of higher education. Lewis-Burke’s staff of about 20 government relations professionals work to promote the federal research and policy goals of HFES and the HF/E community.*

**CALENDAR**

**May**


**EDRA45 (Environmental Design Research Association)**, May 28–31, 2014, New Orleans, LA.


**American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition (AIHce)**, May 31–June 5, 2014, San Antonio, TX.

**June**


**American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Professional Development Conference & Exposition**, June 8–11, 2014, Orlando, FL.