Human Systems Integration Newsletter
May 2010

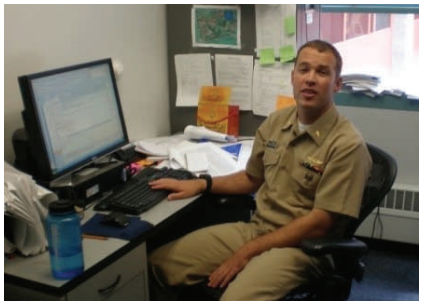
Farewell LCDR Paul O'Connor

After nearly two years at NPS, the time has come for us to bid farewell to ***LCDR Paul O'Connor, Ph.D.***, his wife, ***Angela O'Dea, Ph.D.***, and their three children. Paul and Angela have been invaluable members of the NPS community. Paul taught both the Human Factors Engineering course and the Environment, Safety and Occupational Health course; advised theses; conducted research; published articles; edited a book; and, chaired the NPS Institutional Review Board (IRB) during his first year. In addition to raising three small children, Angela chaired the IRB during the couple's second year in Monterey. HSI Research Assistant, ***Diana Kim***, recently caught up with Paul to get his thoughts about his tenure at NPS and what the future holds for his family and him.

Where is it that you're heading off to? What will you be doing there?
I'm leaving NPS for the National University of Ireland in Galway, which is actually my wife's hometown. There I'll be working in the Center for Innovation and Structural Change. I'll be performing research and teaching classes, so I'll basically be doing the same job I had at NPS.

How long have you been in the USN and what opportunities has it provided for you?
It's been 8 years since I've joined the Navy. Being a part of that organization has allowed me to work here at NPS and also at the Safety School in Pensacola, FLA.

Since you've taught at different locations, what location has been your favorite place to teach at and what memorable experiences go along with the location?
NPS has been my favorite place to teach, and that's not just because you've asked me to pick one! The students here are really diverse and they're easy to teach and the university environment is



overall a nice atmosphere. My favorite part of working at NPS was definitely the teaching. I have a big mouth and like to talk, so it's nice to have students trapped in a classroom for hours at a time so I can talk and force them to listen! All kidding aside, teaching through using the Socratic method has been a good time here at NPS. I'll miss the students, and of course I'll miss eating BBQ ribs at the Del Monte shack.

What other notable experiences or accomplishments have you had here at NPS?
I served as the IRB chair for a bit and then was gladly able to hand that responsibility off to my wife! I also edited a book on safety while here, wrote a few papers, attended a few conferences, advised a few theses, was a member of the Defense Safety Oversight Council, evaluated the Naval Aviation Safety Program, and basically spent most of my time in the realm of safety/human factors. I also served as the Deputy Director of the MOVES institute, which allowed me to get my hands into administrative type of things on campus.
A thesis topic I recently advised that stands out is from the student Shawn Cowan. He investigated the issue of safety in his thesis and an article based on his thesis work has been selected for publication by AsMA.

What are you going to miss most about Monterey and NPS?
I'm going to miss the weather in Monterey! It's perfect here, not too hot, not too cold. I really will miss that. And I'd have to say that I'll miss having paper towels in the washrooms….Ireland seems to only have the air dryers. In regards to NPS, I'll definitely miss the campus, the students, and the teaching.
And we here at NPS will miss you as well. From all of us in the HSI program, good luck LCDR O'Connor! May nothing but the best happen for you and your family.

Farewell luncheon at El Torrito Restaurant in Monterey. Pictured are (from left to right Capt James Walliser, Capt Ashley Pugh, Maj Eric Phillips, CPT Bill Swain, LT Tre Denton, LCDR Paul O'Connor, LtCol Anthony Tvaryanas, Dr. Nita Miller, and COL (ret) Larry Shattuck

Major Eric Phillips Set to Graduate in June

USAF Major Eric Phillips has completed his thesis and is scheduled to graduate on 18 June! Eric arrived at NPS "off cycle" in July 2008 and has met all graduation requirements of the HSI program. His thesis is entitled, "*Development and Initial Evaluation of the Human Readiness Level Framework*." His thesis committee included HSI faculty members LCDR Paul O'Connor and Dr. Michael McCauley and 711th Human Performance Wing member Dr. Hector Acosta.

His thesis explored the manner in which the technology readiness level (TRL) evaluation system could be adapted to Human Systems Integration. His work will be very helpful in the ongoing process of integrating human considerations into the Acquisition and Systems Engineering activities.

Eric and his family will be departing Monterey shortly after graduation and moving to Dayton, OH, where he will be assigned to the 711th Human Performance Wing at Wright Patterson AFB. Best wishes, Eric, and congratulations on a job well done!

McCauley Technical Report Most Popular Download of 2009

The Knox Library here at NPS recently announced that a technical report authored by ***Dr. Michael McCauley*** was the library's most downloaded article in 2009. Mike's co-author was former NPS student and Hellenic Naval Officer ***LCDR Panagiotis Matsangas***. The number of downloads don't quite rival the latest iPhone app or the hottest You Tube video - yet!

The technical report was entitled, "*Human systems integration issues in small unmanned aerial vehicles*." (NPS-OR-04-008) and was originally published in 2004. Request a copy today and maybe he'll retain his "Most Downloaded Author" title for 2010!

Tvaryanas Recognized by AsMA - Again!

The Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) has once again given the ***Howard R. Unger Award*** to USAF ***LtCol Anthony Tvaryanas, M.D.*** This marks the fourth time Anthony has received the award. According to AsMA, the award was established by the Society of USAF Flight Surgeon's Board of Governors to encourage and reward publication of original work by USAF flight surgeons. The 2010 award was presented at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix in early May.

The award-winning paper, co-authored with ***G.D. MacPherson,*** was entitled, "*Fatigue in Pilots of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Before and After Shift Work Adjustment*" and was published in Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine 2009; 80:454-61). Anthony also received the ***Howard R. Unger Award*** in 2003, 2004, and 2007.

HSI Certificate Program Update

The finish line is in sight for the 1st HSI Certificate Program cohort! Like true professionals, they continue give the program their best effort. As faculty, we couldn't be more proud of them.

They are just a few days away from completing OA4414, the capstone course. This course employs a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) scenario that is set in the year 2014. The scenario was selected to "level the playing field" for the students. None of the students had an unfair advantage because of their particular service experience.

The course consisted of a one week introduction module followed by five two-week modules. During these two-week modules, students worked in teams to develop the following products:

- A Capabilities-Based Assessment
- HSI input to a draft Initial Capabilities Document
- A Human Systems Integration Plan Outline
- A Tradeoff Analysis in Support of a Milestone B Decision
- A Test & Evaluation Study Plan

Every one of these products required the students to apply the knowledge they had gained from the previous courses in the program. Although the students have worked very hard, their feedback continues to tell us that they find the coursework interesting, relevant, and rewarding.

Meanwhile, we are in the process of finalizing admissions for the next cohort scheduled to start on 5 July. Twenty-five students have already been notified of their acceptance into this cohort and another 25 applications are being processed for acceptance. We plan to have two HSI faculty members each teach about 25 students.

Concurrently, faculty are revising course materials based on feedback from students, recent innovations in HSI, and updates to publications. We're looking forward to another great year of teaching HSI!