

# HFES @ VT NEWSLETTER

[HFES.ISE.VT.EDU](http://HFES.ISE.VT.EDU)



Wednesday, May 15, 2024



## HFES Student Chapter at Virginia Tech

We are a student chapter of the National HFES, the world's biggest scientific association for human factors/ergonomics professionals.

**EVENTS FROM SPRING 2024**

**OUR SPRING SEMESTER WERE FULL OF AWARDS, AND  
SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EVENTS**

# Chapter Officers (Spring 24)



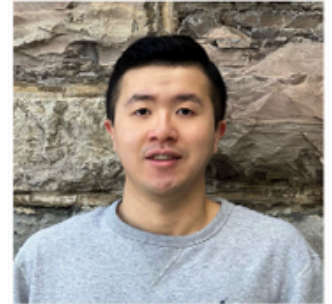
**Shafiqul Islam**  
President



**Saeid Alimoradi**  
Vice President



**Ajit Gopal**  
Treasurer



**Frank Chen**  
Secretary



**Esha Mahendran**  
Communications  
Director



**Yeana Lee**  
Webmaster



**Troy Elliott**  
Undergraduate  
Liaison



**Dr. Rafael Patrick**  
Chapter Advisor

## New Chapter Logo

Following HFES guidelines, a new chapter logo was designed and was approved by HFES Executive Director Steve Kemp for the chapter's use. The logo designer Mr. Ajit Gopal was recognized and received a gift of appreciation from the chapter.



01/12



# Spring Kick-off Social

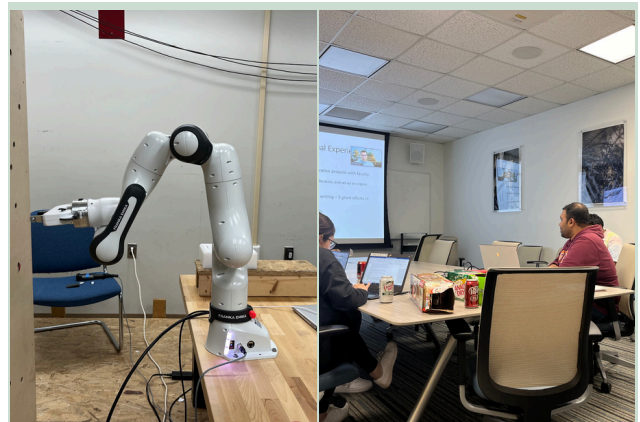
At the beginning of every semester, we start the semester with a big social event to welcome back our members and introduce our chapter and the HFE group to potential members.

**We also announced our Bad Design Contest Awards for Fall 2023.**

## Career Talk with Alumni

We have invited our alumni, Obinna Ugwu and Dr. Chihab Nadri, to join us to share their advice on career paths in industry and in academia.

- Obinna Ugwu is currently a user experience researcher at Meta and earned his MEng in Industrial and Systems Engineering in 2023.
- Dr. Chihab Nadri is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Texas A&M University and earned his PhD in Industrial and Systems Engineering in 2023.



02/12



## Social Hour Sonification Research

In a collaborations with Women in ISE (WISE), a student organization, we hosted DR. Bruce Walker from Georgia Tech to give us an overview of the interdisciplinary Sonification Lab he is running and present the lab's projects and long-term programs.



## Info Session toXcel, Inc.

We have invited Katie Woods, the head of Marketing and Client Outreach of toXcel, Inc., to introduce the company and their Human Factors Division. Katie elaborated on the company's plans on how they intend to expand the HF division and what are the open positions that our recent graduates can take advantage of.

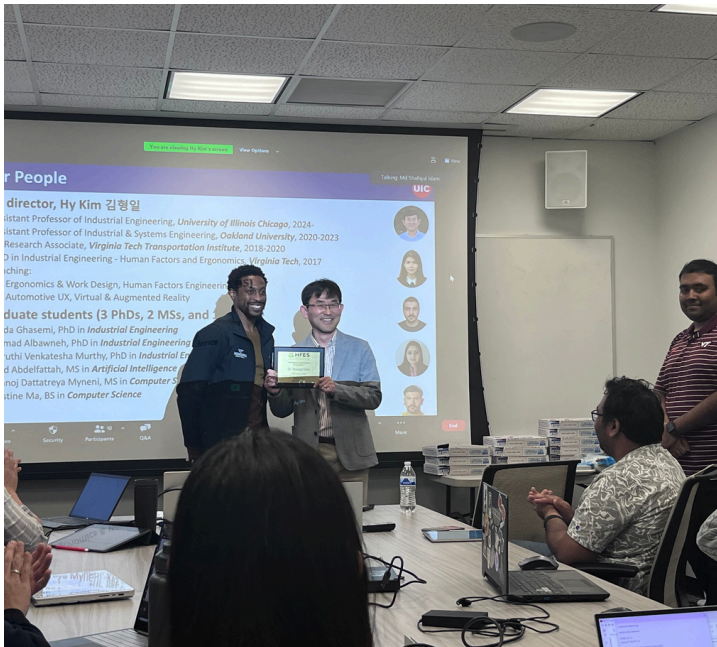


03/12

# VT HFES Seminar Series

## Human Machine Teaming with Dr. Kim

We invited our alum, Dr. Hyungil Kim from University of Illinois, Chicago for an in-person visit. During the visit, current and active projects within the HFE group in VT ISE were presented to him. He, also, presented the ongoing projects he is involved with in his lab.



04/12



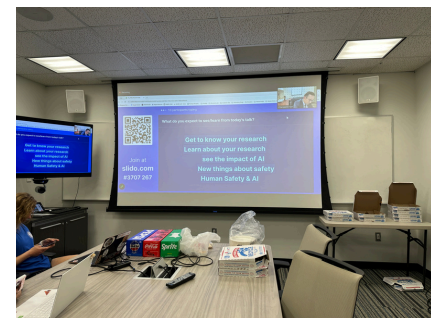
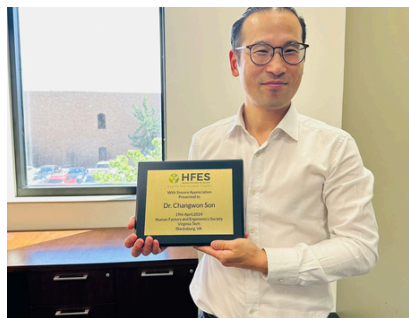
## Info Session BCPE Certification

During a professional event, Dr. Miguel Perez, the ambassador for Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics (BCPE) provided an overview on the certification itself, certifying process, and its benefits in both academia and industry.



## VT HFES Seminar Series Human Factors for Safety with Dr. Son

This interactive seminar emphasized on the pressing needs for making a safer world in the face of various hazards such as disasters, advanced AI, and medical incidents. Dr. Son elaborated on “Disaster Ergonomics” and how human factors comes into play in disaster management.



05/12

# Student Research/Career Talk

We hosted our Annual Student Research and Career Talk this year, inviting three students from the Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) and Computer Science (CS) departments. This event highlighted their research and internship experiences.



## ISE Graduate Poster Competition

In a joint collaboration with ISE department and INFORMS student chapter at VT, we threw a poster competition session, where graduate students from different research groups presented their ongoing projects. Human Factors presented five posters.



06/12



## Info Session Blue Origins

VT HFES hosted Dr. Zarrin Chua, former VT alum and Senior Human Factors Engineer at Blue Origin, for an information and networking session. Blue Origin is an aerospace company that was looking to recruit Human Factors graduates. Students and members took this opportunity to connect with Dr. Chua and get to know about the employment opportunities with Blue Origin

## A VR Fieldtrip with Dr. Burnett

During an online demo, Dr. Burnett, a distinguished professor in Human Computer Interactions from Loughborough University, England, presented a demo of the educational VR environment, he developed to utilize in his teaching. His recent efforts have been focused on reshaping Higher Ed with immersive technologies.



## Cyclorama Sandbox

VT HFES Chapter Members joined an immersive exhibition at Moss Arts Center. The attendees stepped into the immersive 360 video installation at ICAT Cyclorama to explore the House of Sheikh Isa in Bahrain, a UNESCO Pearling Path gem. They delved into its rich history, culture, and intricate architectural details, experiencing the deep connection between people and their living spaces.

07/12



# Awards and Recognitions by the Chapter and Chapter Officers

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP AWARD-2024

- Nominated officers:
  - Dr. Rafael Patrick: **Outstanding Advisor**
  - Md Shafiqul Islam (President), Saeid Alimoradi (VP): **Graduate Student Leader**
  - Ajit Gopal (Treasurer), Frank Chen (Secretary), Esha Mahendran (Communications Director), Yeana Lee (Webmaster), Jia Dong (Graduate Liaison), Troy Elliott (Undergraduate Liaison): **Rising Star**
- VT HFES was nominated for five award categories:
  - Outstanding Organization of the Year
  - Outstanding Program: Bad Design Contest
  - Excellence in Member Engagement and Development
  - Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion
  - Commitment to Well-Being
- **Outstanding Advisor (Honorable Mention): Dr. Rafael Patrick**



08/12

# Awards and Recognitions by the Chapter and Chapter Officers

- **ISE Graduate Poster Competition-2024**

- 1st place: **Esha Mahendran** (Communication Director, Spring-2024)

 Virginia Tech Grado Department of Industrial and Systems En...

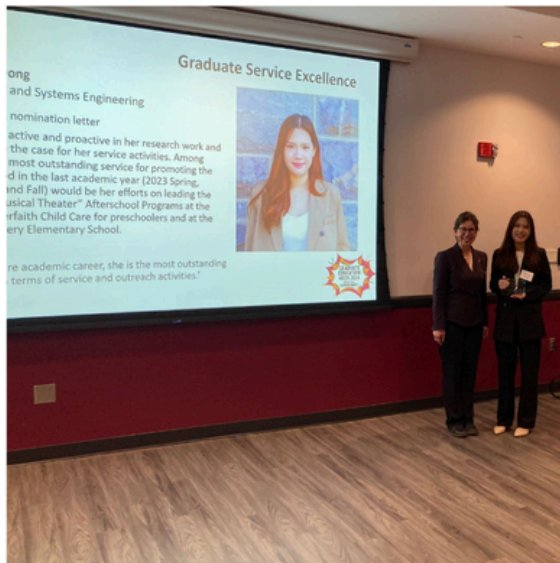
Congratulations to #VTISE Ph.D. candidate **Esha M.** on winning first place during the ISE Graduate Poster Competition 2024! 🎉

This annual event is hosted each year by the ISE Graduate Student Council, and Virginia Tech chapters of INFORMS and HFES. Esha currently serves as communications director for HFES.



- **Graduate Student Service Excellence Award-2024**

- Recipient: **Jia Dong** (Graduate Liaison, Spring and Fall-2023)



09/12

# Awards and Recognitions by the Chapter and Chapter Officers

- **ISE Outstanding PhD Student Award-2024**
  - Recipient: **Md Shafiqul Islam** (President, Spring 2024)



## VT HFES CHAPTER AWARDS – 2024

This year the VT HFES chapter recognized one Faculty member and two graduate students for their contribution in research, teaching, mentoring, and service to HFES.



**Alexander Noll**  
Outstanding  
Master's Student



**Manhua Wang**  
Outstanding  
Ph.D Student



**Dr. Sol Lim**  
Faculty of the Year

10/12

# New Chapter Officers (2024-25)

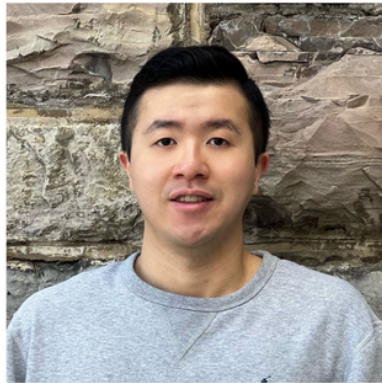
The chapter conducted its annual election for the next set of leaders. Nominations were sought from interested students for all available officers' positions. Student members of the chapter participated in the voting process and the below listed officers were elected to serve the chapter for the upcoming academic year. The previous executive board will organize the transition by Summer 2024. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers.



**Dr. Rafael Patrick**  
**Chapter Advisor**



**Shiyu Deng**  
**President**



**Frank Chen**  
**Vice President**



**Saeid Alimoradi**  
**Treasurer**



**Gayoung Ban**  
**Secretary**



**Utkarsha Mohan**  
**Communications**  
**Director**



**Yeana Lee**  
**Webmaster**



**Xiang Yang**  
**Graduate Liaison**



**Troy Elliott**  
**Undergraduate**  
**Liaison**

# ASPIRE In Phoenix, AZ

The chapter members and officers will join the ASPIRE HFES Annual Meeting in Phoenix. We hope to see you all there and safe travels.



**Join Us!**

Join us by filling out this  
Membership form  
\$6 for Semester | \$10 for a Year



**Scan to Join**

Follow us and be updated  
on LinkedIn!



**Scan to Follow**

12/12