

Message from the Chair

Kevin Devine
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The 69th EDGD Midyear Conference is now behind us and I appreciate the hard work contributed by many to make it a success. My hearty congratulations are extended to Diarmaid Lane and Dónal Carty, recipients of this year's Oppenheimer Award. Their presentation entitled "Micro to Macro... Investigating the Complex Cognitive Processes in Forming and Externalizing Visual Imagery" was certainly worthy of the award. The quality of the presentations and comradery among attendees is something I always look forward to at the midyear conference. I also find value in the off-site social events and tours that are often part of the mid-year conferences. By attending midyear conferences I have seen aircraft carriers and submarines being built in Virginia, diesel locomotives being built in Pennsylvania, and medical devices being manufactured in Massachusetts. This year we were treated to a tour of a Caterpillar manufacturing facility, where in addition to seeing their huge mining trucks being built, several design engineers spoke with the group about product design practices used at Caterpillar. The technical insights we gain from activities such as these, as well as the relationships we forge with our colleagues, make these events time well-spent.

In my last "Message from the Chair", I outlined some of the important changes in EDGD leadership that lie ahead for the Division. The division elections have since been held and I am very pleased with the results. Norma Veurink was elected as Vice Chair, Heidi Steinhauer will be our Secretary/Treasurer, and AJ Hamlin will become our Director of Publications. Both Norma and AJ have been in leadership positions with the EDGD for several years and I am glad they have agreed to use their considerable talents to serve the division in new capacities. Heidi has consistently participated in division events over the last several years and we are all fortunate she has agreed to take on a formal leadership role with the division. With the addition of these three extraordinary individuals to the Executive Committee, the division leadership team is rock solid moving forward.

Please take some time now to mark January 24-26, 2016 on your calendar for the 70th Midyear Conference that will be hosted by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. Many thanks to Lulu Sun, Heidi Steinhauer, and Diarmaid Lane for organizing what I am sure will be an enlightening, enjoyable, and warm conference. I am looking forward to spending time with you there in the Florida sunshine instead of my Midwest snow and wind.