



**Human
Factors
and
Ergonomics
Society**

FELLOW PROFILE

Name: Tom Sheridan

**Degrees, certifications,
etc.:** ScD, MIT Engineering
SM, UCLA Bioengineering
BS Mechanical Engr., Purdue

Current status: Prof. Emeritus MIT
Consultant

Home page (optional): None



Biography (How you got involved in the field, your major career activities and milestones):

As an ROTC officer (Korean war) was assigned to (then) Aeromedical Lab USAF (Dayton OH) and was an experimental subject in centrifuge and ejection seat rides, parachute jumping, etc and became fascinated with challenges of human-machine interaction. Studied with one of HFES founders John Lyman at UCLA in his Biotechnology Lab. MIT then let me do an interdepartmental degree with psychology courses from Harvard.

Employment History (List top 5 positions):

Assistant, Associate, Professor of Engineering and Applied Psychology, Ford Professor at MIT in Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautics/Astronautics Departments.
Directed MIT Human-Machine Systems Lab.
Sabbaticals at Berkeley, Stanford, Delft (Netherlands), Kassel (Germany) and BenGurion (Israel).
Senior Fellow USDoT Volpe Center. Currently consultant in aviation safety.

What were your significant contributions to the field?

Developed models of preview control, supervisory control, levels of automation, etc.
Published five books in human-machine systems, telerobotics, and automation.
Former president of both Human Factors/Ergonomics Society and IEEE Systems Man and Cybernetics Society.
Chaired NRC Committee on Human Factors.
Shepherded a large number of graduate students who have gone on to do wonderful things (including 3 current astronauts).

Did you receive any notable awards or recognition during your career?

Elected to National Academy of Engineering.
Honorary doctorate, Delft University, Netherlands.
National Engineering Award, American Assn. of Engineering Societies.
Oldenburger Medal, ASME; Fellow IEA.
President's Distinguished Service Award, Paul Fitts Award, Fellow, HFES.
Centennial & Millenium Medals, Joseph Wohl & Norbert Wiener Awards, Fellow, IEEE SMC

Which articles in the journal *Human Factors* would you say were the most influential to you and your research or practice?

Anything by Wickens, Parasuraman, Hancock, Moray, and many more.....

Please provide any links to your online articles, essays, blogs, Wikipedia pages, etc., that pertain to your research, publications or practice.

Man-Machine Systems, 1974.

Telerobotics, Automation and Human Supervisory Control, 1992

Humans and Automation, 2002

Bios in Wikipedia, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World

(No listing of papers yet on the web)

What advice would you give someone considering HF/E as a profession?

Find what's fun and exciting and do it.

In the meantime think about what's wrong with the world and how you can help fix it, even making a very small contribution.