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Russ Berger (l) and Shane Kanter (r)



Russ Berger (l) and Philip Robinson (r)

ASA student members awarded NCAC student travel awards

The National Council of Acoustical Consultants (NCAC) announced that Shane Kanter, a student at the University of Kansas Architecture Master's Program, and Philip Robinson, a student in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Architectural Acoustics undergraduate program, are the first four recipients of the NCAC's new Student Travel Award. Each student received \$500 in travel assistance to attend the ASA meeting in Seattle in May 2011 to present a technical paper. Shane Kanter presented "Architectural Acoustics and Noise: Acoustics of Green Buildings," and Philip Robinson presented "Quantitative and Qualitative Effects of Diffusion in Rooms."

Russ Berger, NCAC's immediate past president, presented the awards during the student reception at the ASA meeting. As part of a new initiative for NCAC, the award program focuses on those individuals new to the field or looking to get into the profession.

Earlier in the year, NCAC selected four recipient universities from a list of eight qualified university programs. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,

University of Kansas, Purdue University and University of Nebraska - Lincoln were each asked to select one of their brightest and best students in their respective acoustics/noise control program to receive the Student Travel Award. The student must have been accepted to present a technical paper at an upcoming ASA meeting or INCE conference.

The eligibility of university and college programs was determined by the NCAC Student Travel Award committee and based on stringent criteria regarding the program's curriculum and faculty. These honors have been made possible through financial sponsorship by NCAC member firms. Additional student winners are expected to be announced throughout the year.

NCAC is an international organization committed to supporting the acoustical profession by recognizing expert acoustical consultants and engineers, promoting opportunities for peer interaction, and providing a reference tool for the public to learn more about the profession and find a consultant to match their needs. Its members span all areas of the field including architectural acoustics, mechanical

noise control, environmental noise and vibration, and forensic acoustics. For more information on NCAC and the Student Travel Award, please visit the NCAC website, www.ncac.com.



Photo credit: Vassar College/Buck Lewis

David T. Bradley receives NSF funding

A multifaceted 5-year project developed by David T. Bradley, Assistant Professor of Physics at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, has been funded for \$410,000 by the National Science Foundation's prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER), which "supports junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars." Bradley's research focus is architectural acoustics, and the NSF funds will enable him to both further

his investigations and deeply integrate them into the Vassar College curriculum, providing hands-on laboratory experiences and research mentoring for undergraduate students. The grant also supports the expansion of Bradley's efforts to introduce acoustics topics to secondary school students and cultivate their interest in the sciences, with particular attention to students of color and others underrepresented in the sciences.

Highlights of what Bradley's NSF award will make possible include: The creation of 10 undergraduate summer research positions at Vassar; the addition of \$150,000 in acoustics research equipment for the Vassar physics department; a collaboration with the IBM Acoustics Laboratory in Poughkeepsie; and the extension of a physics workshop series for ethnic minority high school students from the Bronx, NY.

In advance of Bradley joining the physics and astronomy department in 2007, Vassar built a new acoustics laboratory to support his teaching and research, with state-of-the-art computational and experimental equipment and facilities. Bradley's current research objective is to characterize the behavior of reflected sound energy from surfaces used in acoustically sensitive spaces, like concert halls and classrooms.

David T. Bradley earned a B.A. in Physics from Grinnell College, and he completed his Ph.D. at the Architectural Engineering program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with the aid of several fellowships, including the Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship.

David is a member of the Acoustical Society of America and served as Chair of the Student Council from 2004-05. He is a member of the Technical Committee on Architectural Acoustics and a former member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity.

Philip W. Robinson Awarded Fulbright Grant

Philip W. Robinson, a Ph.D. student at the graduate program in architectural acoustics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to continue his research into the effects of architectur-



Philip W. Robinson

al enclosures on listeners' perception of sound. His research will take place at the Aalto University of Science and Technology in Helsinki, Finland.

Robinson, a member of the Acoustical Society of America, received a BArch. from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 2004 and an M.Sc. in architectural acoustics from Rensselaer in 2009. His work will further knowledge that will be used in acoustic applications from concert halls to home theaters to telecommunications systems.

Robinson will begin his research in Helsinki in August 2011 and remain at the Aalto University of Science and Technology for two semesters.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, provides funding for students, scholars, teachers, and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. The program was established to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills.

William Kuperman selected 2011 recipient of The Walter Munk Award

William Kuperman has been selected as the 2011 recipient of the Walter Munk Award for Distinguished Research in Oceanography Related to



William Kuperman

Sound and the Sea. Since 1993, The Oceanography Society has presented this award to recognize significant original contributions to the understanding of physical ocean processes related to sound in the sea; significant original contributions to the application of acoustic methods to that understanding; and/or outstanding service that fosters research in ocean science and instrumentation contributing to the above. He will receive the award at the fall meeting of the Acoustical Society of America to be held 31 October-4 November in San Diego, CA. He will also be recognized during the Ocean Sciences meeting in Salt Lake City, UT, in February 2012.

Dr. Kuperman is a Professor of Oceanography and Director of the Marine Physical Laboratory of the University of California San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Dr Kuperman's achievements were noted in a letter supporting his nomination: "Bill Kuperman is at the forefront of a revolution in our understanding of wave scattering physics. This revolution is changing such diverse fields as medical imaging, seismology and oceanography. Practitioners now use chaotic scattering fields as coherent lenses and random noises as coherent sources. Complex propagation environments that once confounded the interpretation of received signals are now said to "enrich their information content". Bill and colleagues have discovered how to extract this information and are opening new avenues for the remote sensing of

the ocean. For oceanographers, the benefits of this revolution are just emerging.”

Dr. Kuperman is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America. He served as Associate Editor of the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America (1986-93), Chair of the Technical Committee on Underwater Acoustics (1982-85), Chair of the Fall 2004 meeting in San Diego, Member of the ASA Executive Council, (1982-85), and the Society’s President (2004-05).

The Oceanography Society was founded in 1988 to disseminate knowledge of oceanography and its application through research and education, to promote communication among oceanographers, and to provide a constituency for consensus-building across all the disciplines of the field.

ASA Awards presented at International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)

The Acoustical Society of America (ASA) was again privileged to present awards to six high school students during the 2011 Intel ISEF, held this year in Los Angeles, CA. The fair has been held since 1950 to simulate interest in scientific and engineering careers among high school students. Student winners are ninth through twelfth graders who earned the right to compete at the Intel ISEF 2011 by winning top prize at local, regional, state or national science fairs. This year’s fair featured more than 1500 entrants from 66 nations, including the United States, exhibiting projects covering 14 technical disciplines.



Photo caption: Andrew Feldman (l), Neil Shaw (c), Kelles Gordge (r)

Grand Awards judges awarded prizes from \$5000 to \$500 to first through fourth place finishers in each of the 14 disciplines and Special Awards judges made awards on behalf of each of nearly 70 professional associations, including the ASA. In addition, scholarship awards are awarded by Intel and other organizations. ASA presents a First Award of \$1,000 with the student’s school awarded \$500 and the student’s mentor awarded \$250; a Second Award of \$500 with the student’s school awarded \$200 and the student’s mentor awarded \$100; and three non-cash Honorable Mention certificates. Each ASA award winner also received a free one-year membership to the Society. A complete listing of the finalist abstracts can be viewed at <https://apps.societyforscience.org/abstracts/>.

The First Award went to Andrew Beekman Feldman, 16, of Manalapan High School in Englishtown, NJ, for his Electrical and Mechanical Engineering project “Acoustic Imaging Using Optimized Beamforming Techniques.”

The Second Award went to Kelles Diane Gordge, 16, of Great Mills High School in Great Mills, MD, for her Engineering Materials and Bioengineering project “Critical Point of View: A System for in vivo Monitoring of Lung Sounds in Critical Care Patients.”

First Honorable Mention went to Constantin Slavnov, 17, and Ilya S. Shoshin, 18, of the Lyceum of Information Technologies in Moscow, Russia, for their Computer Science project “Sound Wave Propagation: 3D Premises Model.”

Second Honorable Mention went to Alexander Nathan Finney, 16, of Covenant Christian Academy in Huntsville, AL for his Electrical and Mechanical Engineering project “Precision Location of Acoustic Sources.”

Third Honorable Mention went to Ryan Kyong-Doc Chung, 14, of Terre Haute South Vigo High School in Terre Haute, IN, for his Computer

Science project “Note to Self: A Transcriptional Study of Audio Files Using Fourier Transformation and New Applications.”

In addition Mr. Feldman was also awarded a Tuition Scholarship Award of \$4,000 for original research in an important Naval-relevant scientific area and a trip to attend the London International Youth Forum from the Office of Naval Research on behalf of the United States Navy and Marine Corps as well as a Distinguished Achievement Award and a trip to the SEG International Exposition and Annual Meeting from Society of Exploration Geophysicists. Ms. Gordge also received an Award of three \$1000 US Savings Bonds, a certificate of achievement, and a gold medallion from the United States Army, the First Award of \$1500 from the International Council on Systems Engineering as well as an award of \$100 from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance/The Lemelson Foundation.

At the Grand Awards ceremony, Mr. Feldman received a Second Award of \$1,500 in the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering division, and Mr. Slavnov and Mr. Shoshin received a Fourth Award of \$500 in the Computer Science Division.

The ASA judging team included Dr. Steven A. Martin of Wyle Research and Consulting in El Segundo, CA, Dr. Roman Vinokur of ResMed Motor Technologies in Chatsworth CA, and the author of this report, who presented the ASA First and Second Awards at the Special Awards ceremony. The judges were impressed by the broad areas of research presented in finalists’ projects, by the mix of nations represented by the finalists and judges, and the high level of enthusiasm throughout the fair. The technical expertise demonstrated by the students in their projects was impressive.

The ISEF will be held in Pittsburgh in 2012 and in Phoenix in 2013 before returning to Los Angeles in 2014. Echoing the sentiment from Dr. A. B. Broderson, the ASA team leader from last year’s fair, we recommend that any ASA member asked to judge future fairs accept the invitation with enthusiasm.

Neil A. Shaw, Menlo Scientific Acoustics, Inc., Topanga, California