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Acoustical Society of America  
Melville, New York 11747



Karim Sabra

## Karim Sabra awarded the A. B. Wood Medal and Prize

Karim Sabra, Assistant Professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded the 2009 A. B. Wood Medal and Prize by the Institute of Acoustics. The medal award ceremony took place at the ancient Epidaurus Theater at the end of the 3rd International Conference and Exhibition on Underwater Acoustic Measurements: Technologies held in Nafplion, Peloponnese, Greece, in June 2009.

The A. B. Wood medal and attendant prize is awarded in alternate years to acousticians domiciled in the UK or Europe and in the USA or Canada. It is aimed at younger researchers, prefer-



The A. B. Wood medal

ably under the age of 35 in the year of the award, whose work is associated with the sea. Following his graduation from Manchester University in 1912, Albert Beaumont Wood became one of the first two research scientists at the Admiralty to work on antisubmarine defense. He designed the first directional hydrophone and was well known for the many contributions he made to the science of underwater acoustics and for the help he gave to younger colleagues. The medal was instituted after his death by his many friends on both sides of the Atlantic. By agreement with the Institute of Acoustics, the Acoustical Society nominates candidates for the award in alternate years.

Dr. Sabra received an M.Sc from École National Supérieure de Techniques Avancées, France, in 2000, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in 2000 and 2003. He began at Georgia Tech in 2007 as an Assistant Professor. Prior to this he was a Project Scientist at the Marine Physical Laboratory of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the University of California at San Diego. He is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America.

Dr. Sabra's ongoing focus has been the development of novel passive monitoring and imaging techniques based on diffuse wave fields (e.g., ambient noise and multiple scattered fields). His current research projects include: The development of an *in-vivo* passive elastography technique for soft tissues (e.g., skeletal muscles) using random physiological vibrations self-generated by the human body (e.g., muscles twitches, heart beats); passive structural health monitoring of aircraft wings using flow-induced vibrations and diffuse wavefields; and the use of ambient noise for seismoacoustic tomography of the ocean environment. His interests also include the development of environmentally adaptive sonar systems for detection of buried objects in shallow water coastal zones for harbor protection and mine counter measures.



Beth A. Prieve

## ASA members named Fellows by ASHA

ASA members Beth A. Prieve and Mario Svirsky were named Fellows of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 2009. The status of Fellow recognizes professional or scientific achievement and is given to an ASHA member who has shown outstanding contribution to the professions—contributions that are significant and would be so regarded within and beyond one's community or state. The profession has thousands of members who fulfill their responsibilities competently and well, but only a small percentage have, by virtue of the quality and amount of their contributions, distinguished themselves sufficiently to warrant recognition by election to Fellow in ASHA.

Beth Prieve is Professor in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at Syracuse University. She conducts research on hearing and hearing problems in infants and children of all ages. Dr. Prieve is a member of the Acoustical Society of America, the American Auditory Society, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and a Fellow of the American Academy of Audiology. She received her Ph.D. in Audiology from the University of Iowa in 1989.



Mario Svirsky

Mario A. Svirsky received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from the Universidad de la República in Montevideo, Uruguay and his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Tulane University in 1988. Since 2005 he has been at the Department of Otolaryngology and New York University School of Medicine, as the first Noel L. Cohen Professor of Hearing Science. He is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, a member of the Collegium Otolaryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum, a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering.

His research interests include basic research in speech perception, auditory psychophysics, and speech production; the development of mathematical models of speech perception, and the study of cochlear implantation outcomes. He is interested in both clinical and scientific aspects of cochlear implantation, and what the study of this clinical population can tell us about more general phenomena such as speech perception in normal hearing listeners, and adaptation to a distorted or degraded sensory input.

### Diemer De Vries is new President of AES

Diemer De Vries has assumed the office of President of the Audio Engineering Society (AES) for the period 2009-2010. He was elected in 2008 and served one year as President-Elect.

Diemer De Vries was born in The Netherlands in 1945. He received his M.Sc. degree at TU Delft in 1971, and



Diemer De Vries

after graduation, joined the staff of the Laboratory of Acoustics. During his career as a university researcher he worked on projects in room acoustics, building acoustics, and seismic signal processing. In 1984, he received a Ph.D. degree on a thesis in the latter field. As an associate professor, he coordinates the research on array technology-based wavefield analysis and synthesis in audio and acoustics. In 1976, he was a visiting researcher at the Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia. Since 1981, he has taught at the Royal Conservatory of Music in The Hague, at the Department of Music Registration. In 2001, he fulfilled the "Edgard Varese" guest professorship at TU Berlin, introducing the wavefield synthesis concept in the world of computer music.

Diemer De Vries is a member of the Acoustical Society of America. He received an AES Fellowship Award for his contributions to the implementation of wavefield synthesis in 1999 and is an associate technical editor on room acoustics for the *AES Journal*. He is past chair of the Dutch Acoustical Association and of the Netherlands Section of the AES. [Excerpted with permission from *J. Audio Eng. Soc.* 57, October 2009. Photo credit: Audio Engineering Society.]

### Earl Williams awarded Per Bruel Gold Medal for Noise Control and Acoustics

The Per Bruel Gold Medal for Noise Control and Acoustics was awarded in November, 2009 to Earl G. Williams, Senior Scientist for Structural Acoustics



Earl Williams

at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, D.C., "for pioneering work in the development and application of nearfield acoustical holography, which has provided the ability to control sound radiation in a wide variety of applications." The award was established by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in honor of Dr. Per Bruel, who pioneered the development of sophisticated noise and vibration measuring and processing equipment. The medal recognizes eminent achievement and extraordinary merit in the field of noise control and acoustics, including useful applications of the principles of noise control and acoustics to the art and science of mechanical engineering.

Dr. Williams has worked at NRL for the past 27 years. His research was formally recognized by NRL as one of the most innovative technologies to emerge from the laboratory in 75 years. He graduated in 1979 with a Ph.D. in Acoustics from The Pennsylvania State University, where he was one of Eugen Skudrzyk's last students. He received a master's degree in applied physics under Ted Hunt at Harvard University in 1968. Dr. Williams is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and has been associate editor for *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* for the past 9 years.

### Tyrone Porter wins NSF BRIGE Award

Professor Tyrone Porter received a Broadening Participation Research Initiation Grants in Engineering (BRIGE) award from the National Science Foundation in support of his project "The role of vaporized perfluoro-





Tyrone Porter

rocarbon nanoemulsions in enhanced ultrasound induced lesion formation for cancer therapy.” BRIGE grants are intended “to increase the diversity of researchers in engineering disciplines to initiate research programs early in their careers, including those from underrepresented groups, engineers at minority serving institutions, and persons with disabilities.”

Focused ultrasound (FUS) is a non-invasive medical procedure for the treatment of localized solid tumors. The objectives of the proposed research are to 1) elucidate the relationship between PSNE density, acoustic pressure, and the evolution of bubble clouds, and 2) investigate the relationship between the size and activity of the cavitation field and the spatial evolution of lesions. A graduate course on the fundamental principles and applications of medical acoustics will be developed. The course will cover acoustic wave propagation and absorption in viscoelastic media, and bioeffects associated with acoustic cavitation, including enhanced heat deposition in tissue and permeabilization of cell membranes for drug and gene delivery. One graduate student will receive training on the synthesis of nanoemulsions and acoustic techniques and numerical methods for investigating the role of cavitating bubbles in ultrasound-mediated hyperthermia. Additionally, research opportunities will be made available for underrepresented minority undergraduate students during the summer months. Finally, outreach efforts will be made to expose underrepresented minority students from local high schools to fundamental

acoustics, energy conversion, phase transitions, and basic engineering design. This will be achieved in two stages: (1) lectures and hands-on demonstrations will be developed to describe basic acoustics and optics, and (2) students will construct and test the acoustic properties of a custom-designed ultrasound contrast agent.

Professor Porter is Assistant Professor at Boston University (BU) where he is affiliated with the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering and the BU Department of Biomedical Engineering. He received a Ph.D. in bioengineering from the University of Washington in 2003. He was the National Society of Black Engineers’ Graduate Student of the Year (2002) and received the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) Frederick V. Hunt Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Acoustics (2003) and the R. Bruce Lindsay Award in 2008. He joined the Boston University faculty in 2006 after completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Cincinnati.

#### **Gunnar Rasmussen is the 2009 Richard C. Heyser Distinguished Lecturer**

Gunnar Rasmussen presented The Richard C. Heyser distinguished lecture at the 126th AES Convention in Munich, Germany in May 2009. The title of his lecture was, “The Reproduction of Sound Starts at the Microphone.”

Gunnar Rasmussen, a pioneer in the construction of acoustic instrumentation, particularly of microphones, transducers, vibration and



Gunnar Rasmussen

related devices was employed at Brüel & Kjær Denmark as an electronics engineer immediately after his graduation in 1950. After holding various positions in development, testing, and quality control, he spent one year in the United States working for Brüel & Kjær in sales and service. After his return to Denmark in the mid-1950s he began the development of a new measurement microphone. This resulted in a superior mechanical stability, increased temperature, and long term stability. In 1994 Rasmussen started his own company, G.R.A.S. Sound and Vibration. Originally a company specializing in precision Outdoor Microphones for permanent noise monitoring around airports, it is now one of the world’s leading companies in acoustic front-ends and transducers.

Gunnar Rasmussen received the Danish Design Award in 1969 for his novel design of the microphones that were exhibited at the New York Museum of Modern Art. He also developed the first acoustically optimized sound level meter, where the shape of the body was designed to minimize the effect of reflections from the casing to the microphone. Other major inventions and designs include the Delta Shear accelerometer, the dual piston pistonphone calibrator for precision calibration, the face-to-face sound intensity probe and hydrophones, occluded ears, artificial mouth, etc. Rasmussen is also the author of numerous papers on acoustics and vibration and has served as chairman and vice-chairman of various international organizations and standard committees.

He is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and received the CETIM medal for his contribution to the field of intensity techniques in 1990. He was also recipient of the Lifetime Achievements in Acoustics Award from the European Acoustics Association in 2008.

#### **Pantelis Vassilakis joins Columbia College Chicago**

Pantelis Vassilakis has joined Columbia College Chicago as the new Chair of the Audio and Arts and Acoustics department. Columbia College Chicago, an urban institution committed to opportunity and excel-



Pantelis Vassilakis

lence in higher education, provides innovative degree programs in the visual, performing, media and communication arts to nearly 12,500 students in over 120 undergraduate and graduate programs, including audio arts and acoustics, film and video, art and

design, arts management, television, radio, early childhood education, music, dance, and interactive multimedia. Founded in 1890 as a communications school, Columbia College Chicago was revised in 1963 as a liberal arts college.

Dr. Vassilakis received a B.A. from Kingston University, Surrey, UK, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Music Cognition, Acoustics and Aesthetics from UCLA in 1997 and 2001, and a postdoctoral certificate in auditory science also from UCLA in 2003. In addition to presentations and publications that range from "Auditory roughness as means of musical expression" and "Culture-dependent emotional reactions to sound," to "Anatomy, physiology, and function of auditory end-organs in the frog inner ear," Vassilakis has extensive experience in digital sound restoration and mastering and signal processing, has composed for the London Chinese

Orchestra and the English National Ballet, and has been a sound designer for BBC Radio 3.

Dr. Vassilakis is a member of several academic and professional societies, including the Acoustical Society of America (ASA), Society for Music Perception and Cognition, Society for Ethnomusicology, and College Music Society. His numerous distinctions include First Prize for his Gallery of Acoustics entry at the Fall 1999 ASA meeting and Best Student Paper Award in Musical Acoustics at the Fall 2001 ASA meeting.

**Erratum:** The credit line for the photo of Kirill Horoshenkov and Simon Tait on page 44 of the July issue of *Acoustics Today* was accidentally omitted. The correct caption, including the credit, reads: Kirill Horoshenkov (l) and colleague Simon Tait (r)

Photo credit: © Ron Colbroth.

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