

# ROBERT BRADFORD NEWMAN NEWSLETTER 00

S T U D E N T A W A R D F U N D

## Three Medals Awarded to Students During 2000

In 2000, the fifteenth year of the Robert Bradford Newman Student Award Medal Program, three students were selected to receive medals "For Merit In Architectural Acoustics". Two recipients attended MIT and one attended Washington University.

### Elizabeth Codero

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Acoustics in Restaurant Design

- This study includes development of acoustical recommendations for 7 restaurants of various types and sizes. The recommendations take into account the different expectations, uses and character of each dining experience.

### Michelle Leah Hoeffler

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
A Case Study: The Acoustical Design of a Performance Hall - from the Architect's Perspective

- This project included a 400-seat Performance Hall, within a major addition to the Music, Theater and Dance Department Building at Rhode Island College. Hoeffler was an intern architect and frequently acted as liaison between the architect and the acoustics consultant. Her report focuses on the consultant's interaction with the architect, during the various design and construction phases.

### William Neale

Washington University  
Acoustics in a Greenhouse/Day Care Center

- A high, 160,000 cu. ft. space was designed for a day care center, where plants and fountains fill a large greenhouse area next to offices and a classroom. Sound absorbing banners provide reverberation control while fountains provide sound masking noise to enhance the acoustic character of this space. This center provides the community with plants, vegetables, and plant-care experience for the children.



Kurt Milligan and Leo Beranek

## Award Fund Concert Held in Lincoln, May 2000

The annual Newman Student Award Fund concert was held on May 9th at the home of Mary Shaw Newman in Lincoln, MA. The New Liberty Jazz Band entertained the guests with its New Orleans style music.

After the musical program Leo Beranek was honored by the presentation of a certificate from Kurt Milligan of the Greater Boston Chapter of the ASA, designating him as an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Chapter. Following the presentation, Kenneth Stevens, a recent recipient of a National Medal of Science Award in Washington, D.C., spoke briefly about his honor.

## Completion of Architectural Acoustics Workbook Funded by Schultz Grant

With the added support of the Newman Award Fund's Schultz Grant, M. David Egan, Professor Emeritus at Clemson University has now completed the *Architectural Acoustics Workbook*.

The goal of this unique workbook is to reinforce one's common sense in the study of architectural acoustics through a variety of learning materials. Using principles and

examples from the book, *Architectural Acoustics*, the workbook includes demonstration examples, listening exercises, case studies, design projects, and other resources. Many of the project assignments and problem exercises can be used for self study, if cited references are carefully read. Answers to the problem exercises are given at the end of the workbook.

For further information on the availability of this workbook, please write to: RBN Student Award Fund, P.O. Box 6349, Lincoln, MA 01773.

## Jack B.C. Purcell Dies, Started Acoustics Consulting at BBN in 1950

Jack Purcell, a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and past president for 32 years of the acoustical consulting firm of Purcell + Noppe + Associates Inc. (PNA) of Chatsworth, California, died on 18 January 2000 of complications from a stroke suffered two weeks earlier. Until his recent illness, he was active as a Principal Consultant to PNA, established in the mid 1960s.

After Jack's WWII service in the Navy, his studies led to a BA in Architecture from Catholic University of America, in Washington, D.C. He first entered the field of acoustics in 1950, working at Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc., Cambridge, MA, during his attendance at MIT in pursuit of his Master's Degree in Architecture. Later he became teaching assistant to the late Professor Robert B. Newman in a new acoustics course being taught at MIT. In 1956 Jack helped start BBN's new office in Los Angeles.

During his long consulting career he was active in teaching architectural acoustics. He was a visiting lecturer at the University of Southern California, where he established an Architectural Acoustics program in the Department of Architecture, teaching that

subject for eight years. He was also active in the Acoustical Society of America and was awarded Fellowship status in 1959, in recognition of his contributions to the field of architectural acoustics. He also served as a member of the Institute of Noise Control Engineering, the Audio Engineering Society, the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, the United States Institute of Theater Technology, as well as numerous other civic and professional organizations.

Throughout his professional life, he lectured often to architectural and building industry related organizations. He wrote numerous articles for technical journals and building industry publications. During his early years at BBN, he consulted on many major projects, including the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and Eero Saarinen's Kresge Auditorium and Chapel, at MIT. Among his countless acoustical projects during his many years at PNA, Jack considered his work at the Santa Fe Opera's outdoor performance amphitheater as his most gratifying experience. Jack's particular talent and strength was his ability to communicate acoustical concepts to architects and engineers easily and to persuade them to design buildings with good acoustical environments.

Jack is survived by his five children. His wife of 57 years, Jackie, died this past July. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many colleagues and friends.

## **Newman Award Fund Will Change Address in 2001**

During 2001 the Robert Bradford Newman Award Fund will be changing its official address, moving to the Headquarters Offices of the Acoustical Society of America, in Melville, New York. At the Society's meeting in December 2000, Bill Cavanaugh will complete the necessary arrangements with the ASA's Executive Office to institute this change.

From the outset, in 1986, the Newman Fund has been operating out of Mary Newman's residence in Lincoln, Massachusetts, under the sponsorship of the Greater Boston Chapter of the Acoustical Society. During these fifteen years, 135 Newman Medals have been given to students at 33 universities around the world.

Several recipients of these medals have begun careers in acoustics, working for acoustical consulting firms or teaching at schools of architecture. The Fund's Theodore Schultz Grant program has also been a success, providing five grants to teachers and others doing research in the field of architectural acoustics education. The most recent project, supported in part by a Schultz Grant, is the *Architectural Acoustics Workbook*, prepared by Professor Emeritus M. David Egan, at Clemson University, discussed elsewhere in this current newsletter.

The Newman Fund has more than fulfilled its initial objectives and continues its long range goal of seeing that courses in architectural acoustics will eventually be available in all schools of architecture, everywhere. Architecture students will have the chance to study acoustics during their early training, giving them the understanding needed to design buildings that incorporate good acoustics in their design—a goal that Bob Newman would have enthusiastically embraced.

Since the outreach of the Newman Fund is broad, it seems reasonable that the sponsorship and administrative operations of this Fund should be moved from the Greater Boston Chapter to the International Headquarters of the Acoustical Society of America.

Although the address will change, the same volunteers will still be working "...to diffuse knowledge in architectural acoustics, and to promote the design of good buildings that incorporate good acoustics".

## **Robert Bradford Newman Student Award Fund**

Lincoln B. Berry  
Richard H. Bolt  
William J. Cavanaugh  
John A. Curtis  
M. David Egan  
Timothy J. Foulkes  
Mary Shaw Newman  
Carl J. Rosenberg  
Gary W. Siebein  
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The Greater Boston Chapter of the Acoustical Society of America, with the cooperation of:

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The Acoustical Society of America:  
Committee on Education in Acoustics  
Committee on Regional Chapters  
Technical Committee on Architectural Acoustics  
Technical Committee on Noise  
Riverbank Acoustical Laboratories

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