

# ROBERT BRADFORD NEWMAN

NEWSLETTER 07

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

## FUND'S 2007 YEAR AT A GLANCE

December 31, 2007 completed another successful year for the Newman Fund. Newman Medals were awarded to 7 students, bringing the total to 193 medals awarded at nearly 50 schools of architecture, engineering and music throughout the world since the program began in 1985.

Six student teams received Harry Wenger prizes in 2007 for their meritorious design work juried and displayed at the ASA Student Design Competition held in the spring at Salt Lake City, UT.

The Fund's Advisory Council is currently considering increased stipends for medalist and award recipients to keep up with inflation. Applications for Schultz Grants to be awarded in 2009 are due by December 31, 2008. Check [newmanfund.org](http://newmanfund.org) for announcements on both these items.

2007 was another stellar year for the Fund. The appreciation of the Advisory Committee is extended to students, teachers, consultants, as well as other professionals and supporters whose extraordinary voluntary efforts make the work of the Fund possible and thoroughly enjoyable. Continuing appreciation is extended to Elaine Moran and her office staff at the Acoustical Society in Melville, NY who help The Fund's operation run so seamlessly.

*Mary Shaw Newman  
Carl Rosenberg  
Bill Cavanaugh*

## SEVEN NEWMAN MEDALS AWARDED IN 2007

During 2007, seven students were awarded Newman Medals. The medalists, their schools and their research thesis or senior projects follow:

**JOSEPH K. DIGERNESS**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
"Modelling The Effects Of Desk Chairs on Classroom Reverberation Time"

**YUN JING**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
"Modifications to the Diffusion Model for Room Acoustic Prediction"

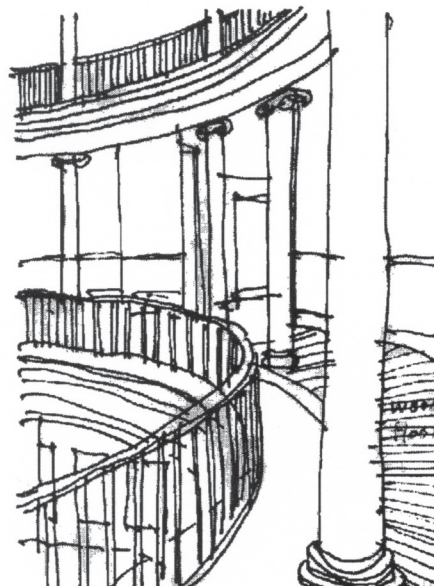
**EMILY MOISAN**  
University of Kansas  
"Acoustics of Worship Spaces, and How Sight Informs the Understanding of Sound"

**MINJIA QU**  
Washington University  
"Listening Journal on Architectural Acoustics"

**JONATHAN RATHSAM**  
University of Nebraska  
"Influence of Absorption Factors on the Sensitivity of a Virtual Room's Sound Field to Scattering Coefficients"

**DOREA RUGGLES**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
"Binaural Speech Intelligibility in Architectural Spaces"

**GEORGIA ZEPIDOU**  
London Southbank University  
"Classical Orchestra Rehearsal Rooms"



*Sketch from Minjia Qu's "Listening Journal on Architectural Acoustics"*

## 2008 BENEFIT CONCERT SCHEDULED FOR MAY 8

The annual Newman Fund Benefit Concert will be held at the Newman residence in Lincoln, MA on Thursday evening, May 8, 2008. The concert will feature The Ancient Mariners Dixieland Band.

Friends of the Fund from near and far are cordially invited. Further details and directions are posted on the ASA Greater Boston Chapter ([gbcasa.org](http://gbcasa.org)).

## SPOTLIGHT ON FUND ADVISOR WETHERILL



Ewart A. Wetherill, more widely known as Red Wetherill, is a "charter" member of the Newman Student Award Advisory Committee who has never lost an ounce of his enthusiasm for promoting the objectives and mission of the Fund.

Red earned his B.Arch. at the University of British Columbia in 1954, and then spent three years in architectural offices and architectural registration in Edmonton where he was awarded a Langley Fellowship. He was accepted in the graduate program at the MIT School of Architecture and Planning where he received his M. Arch. in 1958.

It was at MIT that Red, like so many of the architectural students of the day, was introduced to and captivated by the relatively new field of acoustics, largely through the dynamic and inspirational teaching of Assistant Professor Robert Newman. Red worked part time at the rapidly expanding acoustical consulting firm of Bolt Beranek and Newman while at MIT but was not quite ready to make a lifetime commitment to a new profession. Rather he accepted a faculty position at the Clemson University School of Architecture where, in addition to earning his architectural license and National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) qualification, he developed and taught a new course in architectural acoustics based on Bob Newman's MIT courses.

As his teaching commitment at Clemson drew to a close he was attracted once again to architectural acoustics. In 1960 Red began what would become a 25 year association with BBN. Two years in the Cambridge office were followed by six years in the Los Angeles office and four years as regional office manager of the San Francisco office. Returning to BBN Cambridge in 1972, he worked closely with Bob Newman and Ted Schultz on the final generation of BBN concert halls, leaving in 1976 to join the architecture faculty at British Columbia for three years.

At the end of his tenure he returned to the Los Angeles office of BBN for six more years. In 1985 he was back in the San Francisco area, working with several Bay Area acoustical consulting firms until he opened his own independent practice in 2003.

Red's consulting experience has been extraordinarily broad and diverse and is matched by few architectural acousticians practicing today. All the while he has not lost any of his zest for teaching and lecturing. He has taught courses in architectural acoustics at the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Southern California, the University of Calgary and many others.

Red has published numerous technical papers and articles, has co-edited ASA publications on concert halls and worship spaces, and never misses an opportunity to "diffuse knowledge in acoustics", the mandate of the Acoustical Society of America which elected him a Fellow in 1986. His citation read "for contributions to teaching and to creative practical applications in building acoustics".

All of us associated with the Newman Student Award Fund thank Red for his continuing commitment to the field of architectural acoustics and to the mission and objectives of the Fund.

## 2007 STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION RESULTS

The 2007 Student Design Competition, sponsored by the ASA's Technical Committee on Architectural Acoustics (TCAA), with the support of the National Council of Acoustical Consultants (NCAC) and the Newman Student Award Fund, was judged at the 153<sup>rd</sup> ASA meeting in Salt Lake City, UT in June, 2007. The competition included posters from twenty student teams.

A distinguished panel of acoustical consultants, architects and educators awarded one First Honor and five Commendations.

### FIRST HONOR (*\$1250 WENGER PRIZE*)

**ANDREW MILLER, MEGAN HUNZIKER AND MATT PAULEY**  
University of Kansas  
(Faculty Advisor: Robert Coffeen)

### COMMENDATIONS (*FIVE \$700 WENGER PRIZES*)

**ROLANDO DE LA CRUZ, ARTHUR VAN DER HARTEN AND JOSHUA FIALKOFF**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
(Faculty Advisors: Paul Calamia and Ning Xiang)

**PAMELA HARGHT, MARSHALL HILTON AND ANDREW THOMAS**  
University of Kansas  
(Faculty Advisor: Robert Coffeen)

**BENJAMIN JADOS AND AYSE BAUTZ**  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
(Faculty Advisor: Ralph Muehleisen)

**TOM LEPAGE, YUN JING AND XIAOHU CHEN**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
(Faculty Advisors: Paul Calamia and Ning Xiang)

**DOREA RUGGLES, NICHOLAS TRANBY AND ELIZABETH PANZER**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
(Faculty Advisors: Paul Calamia and Ning Xiang)

## 2008 STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION AT ASA IN PARIS, JUNE 29-JULY 4 '08

The Acoustics '08 meeting in Paris, FR will host the eighth annual Student Design Competition. The design problem is described on the Newman Fund website ([newmanfund.org](http://newmanfund.org)), and in the program for the Acoustics '08 meeting. Through the continuing generosity of the Wenger Foundation, there will again be one First Honor Wenger Prize of \$1250, and four Commendation Wenger Prizes of \$700 each, awarded to outstanding student design team posters, selected by a jury of distinguished professionals. Please contact Bob Coffeen at the University of Kansas ([coffeen@ku.edu](mailto:coffeen@ku.edu)) for further information and details of the Student Design Competition program.

## FEEDBACK FROM NEWMAN MEDALISTS

A number of medalists have sent letters of appreciation that are a source of encouragement to The Newman Student Award Fund. The following are a few quotations:

"Being at the beginning of my career as an acoustician, this award encourages me to continue working with the same spirit and love towards architectural acoustics."  
*Georgia Zepidou*

"Thank you for the medal, the honorarium and the books, which I am already using to prepare for the student design competition. I am extremely excited to begin my professional career in this field."  
*Jonathan Rathsam*

## NEWMAN FUND MEDALISTS ACCEPT FACULTY POSITIONS

Past Newman Student Award Fund medalists Michelle Vigeant and Andrew Carballeira have recently begun teaching assignments. Ms. Vigeant is an assistant professor at the University of Hartford, where she teaches acoustical design and vibration control to students in both the acoustics programs and mechanical engineering. Mr. Carballeira's course at Berklee College of Music concentrates on the fundamentals of acoustics as they apply to musicians and recording engineers.

## ROBERT BRADFORD NEWMAN STUDENT AWARD FUND

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\* Past Newman Medalists

### SPONSORS: The Technical Committee on Architectural Acoustics (TCAA) of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA)

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