

# ROBERT BRADFORD NEWMAN

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

## FUND'S 2009 YEAR AT A GLANCE

December 31, 2009 completed another successful year for the Newman Fund. Newman Medals were awarded to 14 students, bringing the total to 212 medals awarded at more than 50 schools of architecture, engineering and music throughout the world since the program began in 1985.

Five student teams received Harry Wenger prizes in 2009 for their meritorious design work, juried and displayed at the ASA Student Design Competition held at the 157th meeting of the Acoustical Society in Portland, OR.

Effective in 2009, the Fund's Advisory Committee has voted to increase stipends for medalist and award recipients to keep up with inflation.

Applications for Schultz Grants to be awarded in 2010 are due by **June 30, 2010**. Check [newmanfund.org](http://newmanfund.org) for announcements.

In 2009 the Fund welcomed seven distinguished acousticians including another past student medalist as advisors (see new committee listing on page 2). They join a talented creative group in advancing the mission of 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*

## 2010 BENEFIT CONCERT SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 16

The annual Newman Fund Benefit Concert will be held at the Newman residence in Lincoln, MA on Thursday evening, September 16, 2010.

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

## 14 NEWMAN MEDALS AWARDED IN 2009

During 2009, 14 students were awarded Newman Medals. The medalists, their schools and their research thesis or senior projects follow:

**Matthew Schaeffler and Meghan Ahearn**  
University of Hartford  
"Just Noticeable Difference in Clarity Index, C80"

**Xian Yu**  
Peabody Institute  
"Software program for calculating sound levels for loudspeakers in sound systems"

**Jennifer M. Reisdorff**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
"Investigation of LEED for Schools"

**Ryan L. Skoug**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
"Determination of Duct End Reflection Loss Due to a Boundary Condition and Airflow"

**Gil van Buuren**  
London South Bank University  
"Parametric studies on the low frequency acoustics of listening rooms using a numerical wave model"

**Selen Okcu**  
Georgia Inst. of Tech.  
"Soundscape Evaluations in Two Critical Healthcare Settings with Different Designs"

**Philip Robinson**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.  
"Determining surface scattering from goniometer based diffusion measurements"

**Uday Trivedi**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.  
"Reciprocal Maximum Length and Related Sequences in the Generation of a Natural Spatial Sounding Reverberation"

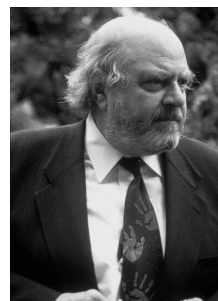
**Benjamin Gaum**  
Ryerson University  
"Sound Created Form - Exploring the Influence of Sound on Architectural Form and the Aural Quality of Spaces It Can Create"

**Luiz Costa de Silva**  
Berklee College of Music  
"Acoustical Measurements at Berklee Performance Center"

**Emily Drott and Valerie Sargent**  
Purdue University  
"A Manual on Classroom Acoustics for the Developing World"

**Margina Alejandra Demmer**  
Washington Univ. at St. Louis  
"Highest performing student in the Acoustics portion of class, ARCH 544A Acoustics and Lighting"

## SPOTLIGHT ON FUND ADVISOR CHRIS JAFFE



Chris Jaffe grew up in Brooklyn, New York, the borough of churches and trolley cars and was a typical City kid who played stickball in the streets and swam at Coney Island Beach. His last four school years were spent at New Utrecht High where he enjoyed science courses as well as English and History. When it came time to select a degree program, he stayed with the sciences and applied to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he got a well rounded engineering education and participated in many extracurricular activities. It was in Troy that he met his wife, Marcia Paris, with whom he shared 54 years of love and companionship.

In the fall of 1945 Chris received his draft notice. Although WWII was officially over, the armed services still needed replacements for the occupying US forces in Europe and in the far East. With his engineering background, Chris became a topographical surveyor in Korea, despite the fact that he had only seen pictures of transits and had no idea of what a theodolite was or even how a topographical map was produced.

After his service, Chris became more and more interested in theatre, radio and television performance and production and, with the assistance of the GI Bill, signed up for a Master's Degree in Theatre at Columbia University. While at Columbia and after graduation, he became involved with Off Broadway theatre groups, and designed and built an Off Broadway Theatre in a church gymnasium on 36th Street.

The theatre was designed as an arena and it was in this space that he came to realize how intimate and exciting it was for audiences to engage performers in such an environment.

Chris went on to work as an applications engineer for a metal products manufacturing firm. There he combined his engineering education with his theatre experience and began developing theatrical equipment applications for these new exotic materials.

Shortly thereafter, Jaffe started a firm which developed products for theatre applications. He was soon contacted by Boris Goldovsky, who had been experimenting with aluminum framed fiberglass panels for Boston Symphony concerts at the Boston Public Gardens. The concert worked out well acoustically, and Boris asked Chris to design a demountable orchestra shell out of similar materials that could be used by student and regional orchestras around the country. That was the start of the Stagecraft Company as well as the Jaffe Family, which has been blessed with three children.

As he learned more about the acoustic environment of orchestral music, Chris picked up a copy of Leo Beranek's book 'Music, Acoustics and Architecture' and realized that all his basic premises were borne out in his experience designing forty or so symphonic concert enclosures.

Says Chris about Beranek:

"You've heard the expression: 'Standing on the shoulders of those who came before'? Well I stood on Leo's shoulders and I'm still standing there."

From there the story expands as he applied these principles and experiences to Music Pavilions, Concert and Recital Halls, Multi-use Halls, Amphitheatres and even the Great Lawn at Central Park. All of these experiences are detailed in a new book that is being published by W. W. Norton, due out in August 2010. The book, entitled "The Acoustics of Performance Halls: Spaces for Music from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl", explains how he applied a number of acoustic principles to a wide variety of architectural environments to achieve the traditional concert hall sonic experience (<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail.aspx?ID=15669>).

More recently, Chris joined the acoustical firm Acentech as a senior architectural acoustic consultant in their Studio A. Along the way he has been awarded a number of Fellowships and Honors, of which he is very proud. Says Jaffe:

"It was a very exciting ride."

## FEEDBACK FROM NEWMAN MEDALISTS

"The books will be highly important for me, since I've been seriously considering a career as a studio designer and acoustician. I'm from Brazil so I think this fact represents a breakthrough, especially considering all the challenges I've been overcoming in my life and studies outside my country."

*Luiz Fernando Costa e Silva*  
*Berklee College of Music*

## 2009 STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION RESULTS

The 2009 Student Design Competition was judged in May at the 157th ASA Meeting in Portland, OR. Twenty one entries competed for five awards, one First Honors and four Commendations. A distinguished panel of acoustical consultants, architects and educators evaluated each entry and awarded the Commendations.

Participation in the competition is an enormous amount of effort, and each of the entries demonstrated an extraordinarily high quality of student work and understanding of acoustic design. Each of the participants is congratulated on a job well done.

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

**Karl Eriksson, Rikard Olsson, and Victor Gunnarsson**

Chalmers Institute of Technology  
Faculty Advisor: Mendel Kleiner

### COMMENDATIONS (FOUR \$700 WENGER PRIZES)

**Sebastian Forss, Fredrik Hagman, and Lisa Kinnerud**

Chalmers Institute of Technology  
Faculty Advisor: Mendel Kleiner

**Shane Kanter, Jon Birney, and John Hodgson**

University of Kansas  
Faculty Advisor: Bob Coffeen

**Anna Sandberg, Caroline Werner, and Elis Johansson**

Chalmers Institute of Technology  
Faculty Advisor: Mendel Kleiner

**Alic Vedad, Hanna Mangs, and Daniel Johansson**

Chalmers Institute of Technology  
Faculty Advisor: Mendel Kleiner

## 2010 STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION AT ASA IN BALTIMORE, MD APRIL 19-23, 2010

The 159th ASA meeting in Baltimore will host the eleventh annual Student Design Competition. The design problem is described on the Newman Fund website ([www.newmanfund.org](http://www.newmanfund.org)), and in the program for the 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.

## ROBERT BRADFORD NEWMAN STUDENT AWARD FUND

### Advisory Committee:

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\* Past Newman Medalists

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