

# THE BILLET

Health Physics Society ♦ South Texas Chapter ♦ Radiation Safety Specialists

## Graduate Students Present Their Findings on 44 Years of Reported Incident and Complaint Events Involving Sources of Radiation in Texas (1956–2000)

*Janet McCrary*

*Graduate students symbolically present to Art Tate the results and database of their study. Shown left to right: Mike Pokluda, Art Tate, Mario Soares, Alan Lucas, Kate Maness, May Montasser, Scott Patlovich, and Janet McCrary.*



The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSCH) Environmental Health & Safety Department (EH&SD) collaborated with the Texas Department of Health—Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC) on a number of projects examining the use of aggregate regulatory compliance data for education and prevention. These projects have relied heavily on student involvement and have proved to be wonderful learning experiences. In the post 9/11 world, many questions have arisen regarding the control of sources of radioactivity that might be used in “dirty bombs.” Records of lost source events have been maintained by the BRC since 1956, but the documents are in text formats that do not lend themselves to descriptive analysis. So to assist the BRC in fulfilling information requests, 7 graduate student volunteers have spent the summer months under the direction of the EH&SD cataloging and analyzing 7,801 reported incident and complaint events. The database created by the students is the only one of its kind in the country and has generated a significant amount of interest at both the state and national levels. To bring this unique student practica project to a close, the

students made a joint formal presentation of their findings to key stakeholders. Representatives from the BRC and UTHSCH administration and faculty from the UTHSCH School of Public Health and the University of Houston-Clear Lake were in attendance.

On August 5, 2002, six graduate students presented the analysis results of their summer project titled “Reported Incident and Complaint Events Involving Sources of Radiation in Texas, 1956–2000.” The students received the incident and complaint data in text format and manually converted this information into an easily analyzable database. Through conversing with Bob Emery, they discovered that the BRC data was much more thorough than any other state or federal government agency. The students even converted the information from the “ancient Wordstar” documents into the new database. (Bob was temporarily shocked to learn that the students considered his Wordstar software to be so

outdated because he converted to Word only a few years ago.)

Some of the major findings of the analysis include a majority of the sources stolen in Texas from 1956 to 2000, which are in the industrial setting. Also, from 1956 to 2000, only 2 percent of the reported overexposure events are greater than 100 rem, which means a very small percentage has resulted in nonstochastic effects. This provides evidence that radiation-safety programs in Texas are effectively minimizing the occurrence of immediate-health effects, such as skin reddening. Complaints were also summarized, including briefly discussing a few “unique complaints” (or alternately termed nut cases, fruits, and flakes). In 1987, a lady claimed that her car had been moved in the mall parking lot by UFOs and that her and her daughter’s buttocks received first-degree burns from the radiation. Their doctor suspected the dose might be from the tanning facility

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**36th HPS Midyear Topical Meeting Night Out Activity**

*Rick Jacobi*

The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society invites members to participate in the 36th HPS Midyear Topical Meeting to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, from January 26–29, 2003. The topic of the meeting is Radiation Safety Aspects of Homeland Security and Emergency Response.

The local arrangements committee has planned an exciting Night Out at the Buckhorn Hall of Horns with plenty of food and an open bar. Come, take a winter break and experience famous Texas hospitality and great Tex-Mex cuisine.

The Night Out Social will feature Texas BBQ served up at the Buckhorn Saloon and museum, one block north of the Hyatt Regency. The Buckhorn Saloon is one of the oldest in Texas. The museum is a short two blocks from the Alamo and 50 yards from the Riverwalk. The museum has 33,000 square feet of artifacts from Texas history and world-record wildlife exhibits with African, Asian, Alaskan, and North American themes—more than 520 different species in all, including fish from the Seven Seas. The saloon opened its doors in 1881 and had been frequented by the likes of O. Henry, Teddy Roosevelt, and Will Rogers. During World II, the Buckhorn grew to be a favorite hangout for U.S. troops sent to San Antonio for military training.

Our 2003 Texas BBQ will be held in the second floor Toepperwin Banquet Hall,

named in honor of Ad and Plinky Toepperwin, turn-of-the-century San Antonio sharpshooters who could put Buffalo Bill and Annie Oakley to shame. Our caterer, Don Strange, has served up Texas cuisine with flair for more than 40 years from the Texas Hill Country to the White House. HPS members will fondly remember the Don Strange-catered bash in La Villita Plaza at the 1997 San Antonio Annual Meeting.

Arrive hungry! The all-you-can-eat BBQ will feature brisket and biscuits, fried jalapeño peppers, corn pudding, quesadillas, and more. Wash it down with your favorite beverage from the open bar, and finish it off with double fudge brownies and peach cobbler.

Western garb is the recommended attire for the occasion. The best-western-dressed attendee will have the price of admission refunded.

Before, during, or after dinner, see the extensive memorabilia accumulated at the Buckhorn in its 120-year existence. The original proprietor, Albert Friederich, grew tired of being challenged by cowboys who said they had better hunting trophies at home. His response: “Bring it in for a free drink!” In time, the collection grew from horns and antlers to trophies ranging from a gigantic long-horn steer (Tex) to items from the oceans and jungles of the world (swordfish, polar bear, and gorilla, to name a few). The exhibit also includes an extensive collection of rifles, revolvers, spurs, and saddles as well as a video on the

history of the Buckhorn and film footage of the Toepperwins in action. If you fancy yourself a marksman, you can try your own aim in the electronic shooting gallery, a rare concession to modern times in the Buckhorn. Or perhaps you’d rather relax with friends at the 90-foot cherrywood bar in the downstairs saloon.

When the Buckhorn closes down at 10 p.m., you’ll be only 50 feet away from the start of more good times on the famous San Antonio Riverwalk. The Paseo Del Rio, in the heart of downtown, is the pride of the city. Lush green foliage lines the banks of this peaceful, historic river. Cobblestone walkways lead visitors to the river-level restaurants and shops. The river bubbles to the surface on the grounds of the University of the Incarnate Word and flows to downtown and beyond, threading its way through the city one level below the hustle and bustle of city streets. It was first called Yanaguana by the Payaya Indians, meaning “place of refreshing waters.” Along the horseshoe shaped river bend, the river is shaded by towering cypresses, oaks, and willows and bordered by gardens of flowering ornamental plants. River cruisers travel the Riverwalk’s three miles past unique retail shops, restaurants, and nightclubs.

You won’t want to miss this chance to learn about the most recent developments in homeland security while having a great time in San Antonio. ♦

## San Antonio Captures the Spirit of Texas

Rick Jacobi

The South Texas Chapter invites you to join your colleagues in San Antonio, Texas, on January 26–29, 2003, at the Hyatt Regency for the 36th HPS Midyear Topical Meeting. The Theme for the midyear program is “Radiation Safety Aspects of Homeland Security and Emergency Response.” Topics to be addressed in this meeting are emerging technologies, regulatory issues, and radiological incidents related to homeland security. The meeting will start with a Plenary Session on Monday morning followed by technical presentations Monday afternoon through Wednesday. The format will include both oral and poster sessions.

San Antonio captures the spirit of Texas. Now the ninth largest city in the United States, San Antonio has retained its sense of history and tradition. The city has always been a crossroads and a meeting place. Sounds and flavors of Native

Americans, Europeans, African-Americans, the Wild West, Mexico, and the Deep South mingle and merge.

For history buffs, San Antonio is a “Mecca.” Native Americans first lived along the clear waters of the spring-fed San Antonio River. Spanish explorers and missionaries came upon the river in 1691, and because it was the feast day of St. Anthony, they named the river “San Antonio.” The actual founding of the city was in 1718 when the Mission San Antonio de Valero was established. The mission became permanently etched in the annals of history in 1836 as “the Alamo” where 189 Texans held the old mission for 13 days in defense of Texas independence.

The Hyatt Regency faces the Alamo on one side and the city’s famous Paseo Del Rio on the other. The Paseo del Rio—better known as the Riverwalk—is a cobblestone path on both sides of the

San Antonio River that winds its way through the middle of town. The Riverwalk has multiple personalities—quiet and park-like in some stretches, while other areas are full of activity with European-style sidewalk cafes, specialty boutiques, nightclubs, and gleaming high-rise hotels. Yanaguana Cruises, the river’s floating transportation system, provides a novel method of sightseeing and people watching. River taxis deliver visitors to Rivercenter, a dazzling three-level glass shopping, dining, and entertainment complex.

Come take a winter break and experience the famous Texas hospitality and that great Tex-Mex cuisine. For more information on the attractions of beautiful and historic San Antonio, Texas, visit the San Antonio convention and visitors bureau web page at <http://www.sanantoniocvb.com>. ♦

## Texas Radiation Advisory Board’s Advisory on Whole Body CT Screening

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The Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB), in conjunction with the Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC), would like to caution the public about the practice of whole body CT (computed tomography) screening examinations. Under current regulations, x-ray examinations must be ordered by a licensed physician unless approval for healing arts screening has been obtained from the Texas Department of Health–BRC. The only self-referred screening examinations currently approved are for

mammography, bone densitometry for osteoporosis, and x-ray exams for coronary heart disease.

Current policy dictates that the facilities must receive approval from the BRC, based on scientific data, prior to being approved to conduct screening examinations. The Food and Drug Association (FDA), the American College of Radiology (ACR), the Society of Thoracic Imaging, and others do not support the use of whole body CT screening of the general public. Whole body CT, however, may be

appropriate in certain patients with a specific medical history.

Problems cited with CT screening include the lack of any specific scientific evidence that CT screening improves medical care for the public or prolongs life. There are also concerns raised over the possibility that unnecessary additional procedures will be required, resulting in an increased monetary cost to the patient as well as a possible increase in morbidity and mortality from these unnecessary follow-up examinations or surgeries. In addition, there is some concern about the

relatively high amount of radiation received by patients undergoing the CT screening examinations.

Therefore, until the safety and medical efficacy of the examination is proven, the TRAB and BRC will continue to require specific physician orders for this procedure. The TRAB and BRC further wish to encourage the public to discuss with their family physician whether this test may be appropriate for them based on their individual medical history. ♦

## Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society, Inc. *Austin Marriott North ♦ Austin, Texas* *August 16, 2002*

**Executive Council (EC) Members in Attendance:** Bob Emery, President; Mike Charlton, President-elect; Susan Jablonski, Past-President; Mary Van Baalen, Secretary; Ken Krieger, Treasurer; Stacy Krieger, EC Member; Chris Maxwell, EC Member; Jim Sharp, EC Member.

**Committee Chairpersons in Attendance:** David Fogle, Admissions Committee; Bob Wilson, Legislative Committee; Mike Charlton, Program Committee; Karen Myers, Public Relations Committee; Susan Jablonski, Science Teacher Workshop; John Hageman, Editor, *The Billet* and Midyear LAC Co-Chairman; Linda Morris, Student Assistance Committee; Ruth McBurney, Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee; Jim Lewis, Midyear LAC Co-Chairman. **Committee Chairpersons Not in Attendance:** Rob O'Donel, Affiliate Membership Committee; Rick Jacobi, Public Relations; John Poston, Sr., Nominations Committee; John Salsman, Publications Committee; Marty Meltz, Ad Hoc Task Force on Nuclear Training.

**Chapter Members and Guests in Attendance:** Roy Craft, Alta Craft, Pete Myers, Al Evans.

**Call to Order** — A quorum was established, and the meeting of the EC of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society, Inc. (STC-HPS) was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Past-President Susan Jablonski. (President Bob Emery's flight was delayed. The control of the meeting was turned over to Bob at 7:00 p.m.)

**Approval of the Agenda** — A motion was made by Mike Charlton to accept the agenda. Chris Maxwell seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Susan Jablonski called for a vote on the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes of EC Meeting, April 26, 2002** — Susan asked the EC if there were any changes to be made to the minutes of the meeting held April 26, 2002. No changes to the minutes were recommended. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Chris Maxwell; Mike Charlton seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Susan called for a vote on the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

**President's Report** — Bob made a request to the EC members to email reports to him prior to the meeting. He will compile and email a packet to each member. In this fashion, he hopes to streamline the meeting.

In his capacity as president of the Chapter, Bob sent two generic letters of support. One for salary review for health physics positions within the Bureau of Radiation Control—the response time for this letter was a matter of hours. The other letter was to the U.S. Congress addressing the Chapter's support for the Energy Policy Act of 2002. Rick Jacobi drafted the letters for Bob. Discussion among the EC followed. Stacy Krieger made a motion that the President could submit letters of support on behalf of the Chapter as long as these letters only quote or restate information provided in the Chapter's Bylaws or already published forum like the web site. The motion was seconded by Ken Krieger and accepted unanimously. Mary Van Baalen will forward copies of these two letters to the EC for review.

Bob has received advice and support from the UTHSC-H public affairs group.

Bob reported that Dr. Felknor has made contact with several individuals involved in radiation safety in Costa Rica. Bob's scheduled trip with the UTHSC-H team to Costa Rica has been postponed. He should be going next week. Costa Rica has a nationwide training program for health care workers, which would be the ideal time for providing instructors. Bob hopes to return with a list of specific skills needed for the instructors. The Chapter will likely be getting a new contact in the U.S. State Department.

**Treasurer's Report** — Ken Krieger reported that the Chapter is in excellent financial health with total assets of \$107,727.28.

Ken also raised the issue of the Chapter's certificate of deposit that is coming due in October 2002. With interest rates so low, certificates of deposit with significantly higher interest rates than the money market account are difficult to find. The current and future interest rates are also uncertain. The maturity date of the certificate of deposit is prior to the next EC meeting. Therefore, Susan recommended that the EC authorize Ken to make a decision on behalf of the Chapter when the investment matures. Stacy Krieger made a motion to accept the recommendation. Mike Charlton seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Reimbursements** — There were no requests for reimbursements.

Mike Charlton made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jim Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Secretary's Report** — In Mary's absence, Susan Jablonski reported on the upcoming schedule of the Legislative Budget Board meetings. She gave the schedule of the meetings for Texas State Technical College, the UT System, and Texas Department of Health.

The Chapter's email distribution lists are up and running. The lists are for the Chapter's Affiliates, Certified Health Physicists, Committee Chairpersons, EC, and the total membership. The communication system was determined to be working.

Electronic notifications of the Texas Department of Health—Bureau of Radiation Control's (TDH-BRC's) Interested Persons List concerning rule-making actions will be sent to Mary's UTMB email address for forwarding to the Chapter as necessary. To date, all rule-making actions have been forwarded to Bob Wilson, Chair of the Legislative Committee, and Bob Emery.

At the April 2002 meeting, the secretary was directed to explore further the development of a records-retention schedule for the Chapter. Traditionally, the boxes of chapter records would have been transferred from the outgoing secretary, Pete Myers, to the new secretary, Mary Van Baalen. However, it was decided that current chapter records housed in boxes in Pete's office at the Bureau of Radiation will remain housed there until a records-retention schedule is developed. Mary researched the requirements for development of a records-retention schedule. Based on her research, Mary proposes the Chapter adopt a records-retention schedule that would retain the Treasurer's records (necessary for IRS tax-exempt status review) and records submitted to the Secretary to be made a part of the formal record of each meeting. Examples of records that should be discarded include Program Committee (program participant invitational letters; meeting announcements; meeting registration forms; hotel contracts, once paid) and Admissions Committee (membership application forms). A formal retention schedule will be brought to the next EC meeting.

Mary brought the council up to date on the process through which Pete has been getting continuing education credits (CEUs) approved for each meeting. The process can be streamlined if the Chapter is designated by the Texas Department of Health as an organization that can grant CEUs. A discussion followed regarding the assignment of CEUs per the Licensed Medical Physicist (LMP) rules and the Medical Radiological Technologist (MRT) rules. Mary made a motion that the Chapter move forward in being designated as an organization that can grant CEUs per the LMP and MRT rules. The motion was seconded by Mike Charlton and accepted unanimously.

### Standing Committee Reports

**Program** — Mike Charlton distributed the agenda for tomorrow's meeting. It was determined that a sufficient number of lunches had been ordered. The next meeting will be November 15–16, 2002, in San Antonio. It will be the Annual Affiliates Meeting combined with a planning meeting for the national Midyear Meeting. The Midyear Meeting will be January 26–29, 2003. Mike reported that all the presentation slots have been filled on the preliminary program for this meeting. There have been an unusual number of abstracts submitted for this meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the schedule of the April meeting, which traditionally includes student presentations. The EC gave Mike permission to schedule the April meeting provided it does not conflict with TAMU Parents Weekend, Ring Dance, or finals.

**Admissions** — David Fogle reported that 27 persons applying for membership were approved for membership by the EC. Chapter membership now stands at 299.

The Chapter Directory is not ready for publication. Time commitments on the part of the committee are making this process difficult. Discussion regarding the use of a professional typing service was held. Chris Maxwell offered Ludlum/Adit's service for typing. Chris's generous offer was accepted by the EC. Again concern was expressed regarding the lack of advertisements from the Affiliates for the membership directory.

**Nominations** — John Poston, Sr. — No report

**Public Relations** — Rick Jacobi — No report

### Appointed Committee Reports

**Affiliate Membership** — Rob O'Donel — No report

**Legislation** — Bob Wilson brought to the Committee's attention the need felt by the Bureau of Radiation Control for increased funding to hire and retain qualified staff. The EC discussed at length the development of a mechanism for supporting the Bureau in its hearings at the legislative budget board. Bob will draft a description of the issue for communication to the Chapter membership.

Bob discussed his concerns regarding his submitting comments on behalf of the Chapter. Since the individual needs from the Chapter differ, he would find it difficult to comment on behalf of the Chapter.

**Disposal in municipal waste landfills** — The order is certain to be challenged.

**Publications** — John Hageman reported that the next deadline for *The Billet* is September 13, 2002. Susan Jablonski is now the associate editor.

**Science Teacher Workshop** — Susan Jablonski reported that the Workshop materials are being updated for use in upcoming activities. Any input or suggestions are welcome. New CDs, videos, notebooks, and handouts will need to be generated for the upcoming events.

The Chapter has received approximately 200 civil defense meters from the Texas Department of Health. These meters have been in storage at TAMU. However, Bob Berry has indicated that the meters were not in great shape when received and have been salvaged for parts in some cases. The status of meters for future workshops is still in question.

A workshop has been scheduled for the upcoming "Texas Environmental Education Partnership Conference: Putting the Pieces of the Texas EE Puzzle Together" in San Antonio, September 12–14, 2002. The STC is scheduled to do a program showcase on the 13th from 3:00–5:30 entitled "The RADIOACTIVE Piece of the Puzzle." All plans are set.

A workshop has been scheduled to coincide with the "Science Teachers Association of Texas Annual Conference CAST 2002: Science Without Borders" in El Paso on November 7–9, 2002. The STC is scheduled to do SC 97 workshop on the 9th from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. entitled "Radiation & Health." Presenters are needed who can travel to El Paso. An email request will be

sent to the STC membership. There will be some expenditures (such as shipping materials to El Paso as well as providing lunch to the attendees) associated with this event.

A day-long workshop has been tentatively scheduled in Houston at Southwest Memorial Hermann Hospital. The plan is to provide break & lunch foods, meters, and materials to attendees. Memorial will again be assisting with the planning and cost of the food.

A workshop is in the works for the Big Spring area in cooperation with Fujitsu Network Communications. Susan has been in contact with Mr. George Banash, who is working with the individual schools to plan this workshop.

Bob Emery suggested that coordination of the Science Teacher Workshops is significant responsibility, and this responsibility should sit with a Chapter member dedicated to the process. He believes that there should be an appointed Chair to this committee.

**Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee** — According to Ruth McBurney, “We’ve reviewed the HPS SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) provided by Bob Cherry and highlighted the areas we agree with so that what we develop is ‘in synch’ with what HPS has done. In doing so, we have decided to adopt the same stakeholders and stakeholder needs identified by HPS (e.g., what do our members want for their \$10 membership dues; what can we provide our stakeholders in the way of educational resources).”

Ruth reported that the next step is to develop a strategic plan. **Student Assistance Committee** — Linda Morris reported that three STC 02–03 Education grants will be awarded to Karen Blanchard, TSTC, Associate Degree; Laura Sturban, TAMU, Bachelors Degree; and Si Young Yang, TAMU, Graduate Degree.

The STC participation in regional science and engineering fairs will be finalized by the November meeting of the EC. Linda would like to increase the STC participation from five fairs to six fairs this year.

Linda brought to the EC attention the need for providing hotel rooms for student working at the Midyear Meeting. HPS will not be providing travel grants to students, so there is a need to support local students. Susan Jablonski is exploring

#### Grad Students *Continued from p. 1.*

they had visited. The BRC investigates all complaints, so a BRC investigator had to survey their car for radioactive material and interview the ladies. At the discussion section of the presentation, one attendee noted that his coworker had to miss the office Christmas party that year because he was investigating the suspected UFO

event from the nut case complaint. This helped put the complaint data into perspective for the students.

Positive comments were noted from both the students and individuals in attendance. The newly created database and presentation were given to Art Tate, the Division Director of Compliance and Inspections at the BRC, following the presentation. ♦

cost-effective rooms, transportation solutions, and payment of registration costs. Susan made a motion that the Chapter cover the cost of four hotel rooms for students. Mike Charlton seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

**Ad Hoc Task Force on Nuclear Training Endeavors** — Marty Meltz – No report

#### Old Business

Discussion on advertising in *The Billet* was tabled.

#### New Business

Ken Krieger gave an update on the STC representation at the Homeland Security meeting following the National meeting in Tampa. Ken Krieger and Jim Lewis are representatives for the STC to relay homeland security information to the Governor’s office.

Bob Emery found a company that specializes in performing administrative tasks. Mary Van Baalen will contact this company to see what services they provide and the associated costs.

**Special Discussion (Update on 2003 HPS Midyear Meeting in San Antonio)** — John Hageman distributed a list of persons who have been assigned responsibilities for the 2003 HPS Midyear Meeting in San Antonio and asked everyone to make note of the responsibilities they have been assigned and the completion dates for those responsibilities. Others are encouraged to volunteer.

Jim Lewis reported on the information in the Preliminary Program that was submitted to Sue Burk.

Kathy Cadena has forwarded information on the Night Out at the Buckhorn.

Dan Caputo will host a technical tour at Brooks Air Force Base on Wednesday from 8–12.

Kathy James has arranged with the San Antonio Police Department to do a security briefing on Monday morning.

Rick Jacobi, Public Relations Committee Chairperson, has submitted an article on the meeting for publication in *The HPS Newsletter*.

Susan Jablonski reported that there are now six plenary speakers. The most recent addition is a representative of the Red Cross who provides disaster response. The number of speakers will limit the length of each talk. PowerPoint presentations are acceptable.

It was decided that Bob Emery, as the current STC President, would not be needed to introduce the HPS President to open the Midyear Meeting.

Jim Lewis reported on a request for PEP proctors and students from National HPS. It is believed that there will be a sufficient number of Chapter members or students present to cover this need.

Jim Lewis reported the difficulties with resolving the details for the 5K run. Discussion among the members followed. Jim will pursue the use of another running group to coordinate the run.

Discussion was held regarding the live entertainment at the night out. Frank Iddings will be asked whether his band might be interested in playing at the night out.

**Adjournment** — Bob adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m. ♦

## Edmond E. Griffin

*Ruth McBurney, CHP, and copied with permission from The HPS Newsletter.*

Edmond E. Griffin, known to his friends as Ed, passed away on June 22 at his home in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Ed was born June 5, 1930, in Marshall, Arkansas, and taught science at Marshall High School from 1952 to 1953. He left his high school teaching post to work at Los Alamos Laboratory, where he met his wife, Sue.

Ed earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Arkansas in 1962 and by 1969 had earned his master's and Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. Thereafter, he conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Rochester before joining the faculty at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas in 1973. He served as Radiation Safety Officer for several years at UT-Southwestern. He also worked for the American Heart Association and was a member and chairman of the Texas Radiation Advisory

Board before joining the faculty at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) in 1986 as Chair of the Department of Biology. He served there for about nine years. In addition, he served as interim Dean of UCA's College of Arts and Sciences for 1-1/2 years during an important transition period. During these years, he also led UCA's science education program, where he helped train numerous prospective and active K-12 teachers.

Upon his retirement in 2000, the biology faculty endowed the Edmond E. Griffin Award for Creativity in the Life Sciences, which is given annually to the most creative biology project at the Arkansas State Science Fair. Griffin's research through the years centered on human physiology, radiation biology, and biophysics. He presented his work at numerous conferences and produced about two dozen publications on these topics. He was a member of several

professional organizations, including the Health Physics Society, the Radiation Research Society, and Sigma Xi.

Ed grew up and left Marshall, Arkansas, but Marshall never left Ed. He and Sue thoroughly enjoyed their "Blackfoot Ranch" in nearby Snowball and loved visiting with relatives and friends there who knew Ed as "Gene."

Many UCA colleagues recall Ed's wonderful way of weaving country experiences and stories into both philosophical and practical lessons about teaching, people, organizations, and life in general. As one of his Texas colleagues noted, few people in an academic or professional setting were more widely respected or liked. Indeed, Ed genuinely liked people and treated them all equally. A tall and strong man, he was better known for his gentle approach in dealing with people, his patience in guiding change, and his willingness, as one colleague

put it, "to teach anybody, anywhere, anytime." Many colleagues and students benefited greatly from his teaching, mentorship, and friendship. One health physics colleague remembered him as being not only generally encouraging to young, new health physicists but always looking for ways to give solid operational assistance by way of what he termed "help physics."

Ed was an active member of the Health Physics Society and of several chapters, including the Arkansas Chapter, the North Texas Chapter, and the South Texas Chapter.

Ed is survived by his wife of 48 years, Dr. Sue Griffin, a Distinguished Professor and research scientist at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; their sons Ed and Clay and their wives; four grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. ♦

## Student Assistance Committee Report

*Linda Morris*

The STC 02-03 Education Grants will be awarded to:

Karen Blanchard	TSTC	Associate Degree
Laura Strban	TAMU	Bachelors Degree
Si Young Yang	TAMU	Graduate Student

STC participation in regional science and engineering fairs will be finalized by the November meeting. We participated in 5 fairs in Spring 2002 and would like to increase that to 6 fairs (12 awards total) for the 2003 season.

Central Texas fair winner and middle school student Amanda Hartman went on to win an Honorable Mention at the State Science and Engineering Fair held last April. ♦



# STC-HPS Meeting Showcases Regulatory Partnerships

*Mike Charlton*



The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society partnered with the Texas Department of Health—Bureau of Radiation Control at the August 17, 2002, summer meeting held at UT-Austin’s J.J. Pickle Research Center. This biannual event updated fifty radiation protection professionals and students from around Texas about current and future compliance initiatives.

Attendees were treated to a blue-ribbon panel of speakers hailing from UT-Austin to the newly formed Transportation Security Administration. Charles Chaffin, Systemwide Compliance Officer for the University of Texas System, led off the morning with a memorable lecture indicating why radiation protection compliance programs serve as a model for other regulatory compliance programs throughout Texas. Beth Romo from the Transportation Security Administration provided helpful compliance tips for

individuals shipping radioactive materials. Dr. Wayne Wiatrowski analyzed the effect of recent federal rule-making on medical uses of radioactive material with a critical review of the new 10 CFR Part 35. The morning guest lectures were rounded out by Ruth McBurney, Acting Director of the Texas Department of Health—Bureau of Radiation Control, who outlined future regulatory issues and trends in Texas.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for professional interaction in a less formal setting. Lunch fare included King Ranch chicken, spanish rice, fresh garden salad, and a variety of chocolate desserts. STC-HPS President Dr. Robert Emery engaged the audience with a lively presentation on a novel web-based initiative called the “Texas Radiation Safety Compliance Assistant.” This initiative stemmed from a recognized need for the health physics profession to more effectively reach out to







various professions involved with sources of radiation. The proposed tool would allow users to create customized compliance calendars designed to simplify the compliance process.

The envisioned compliance tool would be available free of charge to all radiation protection programs across Texas. The site would include direct links to vendors providing radiation safety goods and services as well. The presentation stimulated much discussion and interest, including an invitation to share the proposal with the North Texas Chapter at an upcoming meeting.

The regulated community had the opportunity to “greet their favorite regulator” during the afternoon small group sessions. Four stations ranging from medical/academic licensing to industrial uses of radioactive material were available for attendees to discuss specific radiation protection topics. Many thanks to

the professional staff of the Texas Department of Health—Bureau of Radiation Control for their valuable contribution in enhancing Texas radiation protection programs!

The final meeting event enabled STC-HPS members to tour the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory at the J.J. Pickle Research Center. Dr. William Charlton and Sean O’Kelly from the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory guided participants through the various nuclear reactor areas and safeguards. New research methods and techniques were demonstrated including cold neutron sources, neutron radiography, and low-level environmental measuring systems.

Overall, attendees were exposed to diverse programs and projects from radiation protection programs across Texas. Roy Craft summed up the meeting saying “This meeting was one of the best in recent memory!” ♦



## STC-HPS Knows the Way to San Jose

Bob Emery

On August 21–23, 2002, the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) completed the first HPS Radiation Safety Without Borders (RSWB) in-country visit in Costa Rica. Despite various preparatory scheduling and logistical challenges, the visit fulfilled the major stated objectives of the RSWB program. The program's objectives included initial meetings with radiation safety officials, achieving clear agreement of program needs and objectives, the provision of training in emergency response and source security, actual site tours, and the establishment of conduits for future exchanges.

Since the June 2002 American Radiation Safety Conference and Exposition in Tampa and as the STC-HPS President, I have maintained a constant dialog with several key parties involved with the RSWB program. This was done so that the STC-HPS could fulfill its commitment of being the first chapter to conduct in-country work, with a goal of the initial visit occurring no later than the end of August 2002. The key parties in this dialog included HPS Past-President George Anastas; IAEA Representative Khammar Rabbit; and Matt Lowe of the U.S. State Department Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund, which provides support for the initiative. My associates within the University of Texas Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (UT SWCOEH) made contacts with radiation safety officials

in Costa Rica possible. The UT SWCOEH has a decade-long history of collaboration with the public health system in Costa Rica and has served as the liaison for the STC-HPS in Costa Rica.

After securing final arrangements and country clearances with the U.S. State Department, I flew to San Jose, Costa Rica, on the evening of August 21. I was met in Costa Rica by Mr. Lowe's Houston colleague Dr. Sarah Felknor, Associate Director of the UT SWCOEH. Dr. Felknor has worked in Costa Rica with the public healthcare system since 1990 and arranged for the STC-HPS visit with the Costa Rican Social Security Administration (CCSS), which is responsible for providing primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare to the entire country. Felknor and several of her UT SWCOEH associates had been in Costa Rica working on other ongoing occupational health initiatives in the days prior to my visit.

Dr. Felknor's intimate understanding of the internal workings of Costa Rica and long-time working relationships with key government officials have allowed the STC-HPS to stay in the forefront of the RSWB initiative since the program's inception. As an example, Felknor was able to accommodate the needs of the RSWB initiative by personally arranging for an entire day of meetings, training, and site



Bob Emery meets with the Costa Rican contingent.

tours with the radiological control function within the Costa Rican Social Security Administration. Such an entrée would have been impossible without her in-country connections and language skills.\*

On the morning of August 22, Dr. Felknor and I were warmly received by F. Ramirez Guillen, the head of the Department for Quality Control and Radiation Safety for the Costa Rican Social Security Administration. Ramirez and his staff of 10 oversee a national program that operates more than 600 pieces of radiation equipment ranging from diagnostic x-ray machines to teletherapy units. The program also oversees and provides dosimetry to approximately 2,500 designated radiation workers.

After introductions and background discussions, I provided a Microsoft® PowerPoint-based training session on radiological emergency response and source security to the key staff members of the program, with Felknor providing translation. The presentation was an opportunity for the Costa Rican officials to get a sense of the

training and technical skills available to them through assistance provided by the STC-HPS RSWB program, in collaboration with the UT SWCOEH. The bulk of the training content was derived from one of the STC-HPS "Back to Basics" training lectures on simple methods for dose estimations to bridge the gap between health physicists and health care providers. The presentation was followed by a discussion of the causes of overexposure events and the importance of source security. The content was exactly what the Costa Ricans were looking for, and the material was enthusiastically received! The participants were particularly intrigued by the practical methods described to estimate dose for initiation of immediate patient care decisions. Also of note was their interest in source security as it related to overexposure events. This training opportunity comes at a critical time with the CCSS system, which suffered one of the worst medical radiation safety accidents in the world, wherein over 100 radiation therapy patients were systematically overexposed because

of human error. This accident actually resulted in the formation of the department that UT SWCOEH will be training.

After lunch, Dr. Felknor, Ramirez, several of his associates, and I traveled to the Hospital Mexico, one of the largest hospitals in Costa Rica, where the bulk of the radiation therapy activities within the country are carried out. After touring several treatment rooms, access was provided to the central source storage room, where out-of-service sources are stored, awaiting permanent disposal. The facility was found to be clearly posted with warning signs, locked, and surrounded by a chain-link fence, although recent construction activity had caused part of the fence to be dislodged.

Upon return to the departmental offices, the particular needs of the Costa Rican program were discussed. Ramirez and his staff identified five main areas of immediate need:

1. An acute need for medical physics training was identified; apparently there are no trained medical physicists in Central America, and the level of concern about therapy quality control is high.

2. Training materials for radiological emergency response for a variety of parties is needed. Parties needing training include police, firefighters, emergency technicians, health care workers, and architects.

3. Assistance with guidance documents to instruct individ-

uals about how to comply with regulations.

4. Materials to support training efforts in proper receipt, use, and disposition of sources.

5. Assistance with the analysis of dosimetry trends to ascertain monitoring needs.

A variety of potential information exchange opportunities for these topic areas were discussed. In addition, specific contact names for individuals involved in radiation safety oversight in the industrial sector were also obtained. The industrial sector was not explored on this initial trip but will likely be a focus in the near future, and the insights provided by Guillen and his colleagues will help focus certain activities.

At the end of a long day, the Costa Rican contingent were provided with a number of gifts, including items from the STC-HPS, such as copies of the CDs containing the Science Teachers Workshop training content and STC-HPS lapel pins. Ramirez and his colleagues expressed sincere appreciation for the Chapter's efforts to date, and they look forward with great anticipation to the exchanges to ensue.

Periodic updates regarding the STC-HPS RSWB initiative will be forthcoming, along with solicitations for member interest in participation based on identified needs and expertise.

**Individuals wishing additional information regarding this unique initiative are encouraged to contact me at:**

***Robert.J.Emery@uth.tmc.edu.***

\*(For additional background information on the STC-HPS RSWB initiative, see Emery, R.J., Felknor, S.A., "An Initial Radiation Safety Needs Assessment for Costa Rica: The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society's Strategic Planning Appraisal for Participation in the 'Radiation Safety Without Borders' Initiative," *Health Physics* 82 (Supplement 5): S87-S91; 2002.)

## Welcome New Members to the STC

*David B. Fogle  
STC Admissions Committee*

***The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society wants to welcome its newest members to the chapter.***

***They are:***

Maxwell Amurao	UTHSC-SA
Lynn Berry	Abitibi Consolidated <sup>RSO</sup>
Sara Bernal	UMichigan
Jason Bible	UTHSC-H
Amy Bradford	UT – School of Public Health
Dara Cantu	Northwest Eye Associates <sup>RSO</sup>
Jeff Chado	Llano-Permian Environmental <sup>RSO</sup>
Igor Chichkov	Southwest Research Institute <sup>TM</sup>
Al Doty	Llano-Permian Environmental <sup>RSO</sup>
Sara Felkner	UT – School of Public Health
Francis Fota	Darnall Army Community Hospital
Robert Free	Texas Department of Health
Keith Garber	Chevron Phillips Chemical <sup>RSO</sup>
Francisco Gutierrez	The University of Texas
Eric Jaycox	ExxonMobil <sup>RSO</sup>
Chuck Lazzar	RADCOM Associates
Pete Lopez	Trico Products <sup>RSO</sup>
Alan Lucas	UTHSC-H
Dan McKinley	STP-NOC
Matthew Miller	Weatherford International <sup>RSO</sup>
Jeremy O'Dell	Jordan Valley Semiconductors <sup>RSO</sup>
James Oravsky	SMU <sup>RSO</sup>
Don Porter	Rhodia, Inc. <sup>RSO</sup>
Tiffany Powell	TTU
David Provena	Chevron Phillips Chemical <sup>RSO</sup>
James Richardson	Austin Industries, Inc. <sup>RSO</sup>
Kathy White	UT-D <sup>RSO</sup>

***This brings the Chapter's Total Membership to – 275***

# Breakfast Meeting of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society, Inc.

Mary Van Baalen

As the years have passed, the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC) has traditionally hosted a Chapter Breakfast on Tuesday morning during the annual meeting. This year was no different! The Breakfast Meeting was held June 18, 2002, at 7:30 a.m. at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel. It was well attended by current chapter members as well as some former members that have relocated out of Texas.

The breakfast fare included juice, sliced fresh fruit, assorted muffins, bagels, pastries, coffee, tea, and breakfast burritos with scrambled eggs, peppers, jalapeño jack cheese, salsa, and sour cream. President-elect Mike Charlton provided the "Texas picante sauce." All present reported thoroughly enjoying the breakfast.

Bob Emery, STC President, updated the attendees about the arrangements for the Compliance Meeting in Austin, Texas, which will also include special break-out workshop sessions with State Regulators. Jim Lewis and John Hageman gave an update on the preparations under way for the 2003 HPS Midyear meeting in San Antonio. ♦



View of Tampa Convention Center and Downtown



Pete Myers, John Hageman, and Mary Van Baalen



Bob Cherry, Luz Cheng, and Mary Van Baalen



Linda Morris and Roy Craft



Luz Cheng, Mary Van Baalen, Ken Krieger, and Bob Emery with a visitor



Linda Morris, Dave Fogle, and Susan Jablonski at booth with Ken Krieger and a visitor



STC-LAC Breakfast, Tampa



Christy Shriver, Dave Cadena, and Bruce Schoenbacher with visitor



John Salsman, Luz Cheng, Mary Van Baalen

## South Texas Chapter LONGEST-STANDING, CONTINUOUSLY ACTIVE MEMBER

*Rick Jacobi*

This issue's longest-standing, continuously active member story is about Bruce Schoenbucher. Bruce joined the South Texas Chapter after attending a memorable meeting of the Chapter in Houston in 1972.

Bruce was born in Gotham Hospital, Manhattan, New York, on Wednesday, December 15, 1943. According to family legend, he was almost born on the Staten Island Ferry on the way to the hospital. Growing up, Bruce lived in 7 states in the United States and 2 foreign countries. He graduated from Kaiserslautern American High School in Germany in 1961 after attending 9 different schools all around the world from the first grade to his senior year. As a child, Bruce spent his time as a babysitter, pet sitter, paper boy (both throwing a route as well as wandering the wards of the Army hospital in El Paso before school in the morning selling papers to patients and staff), mowing lawns, as a handyman at a summer camp in Vermont, and as a drummer in a rock-and-roll band in Germany.

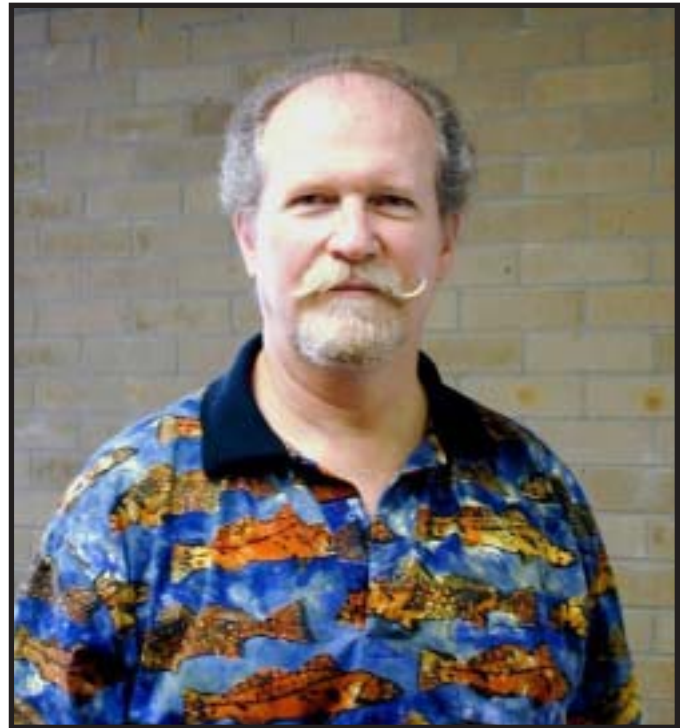
His parents, who are both retired and now in their early 80s, live in Ft. Worth as do his twin sisters; his youngest sister lives in Marietta, Ga. All three sisters are younger than Bruce (as they frequently remind him). They all get along very well with each other and are even known to periodically all get together for Thanksgiving dinners and vacation trips. Bruce's dad spent 30 years as an Army physician and 18 years as the Director of Maternal Health Services for the Georgia Department of Health. His mom was a homemaker, artist, business woman, and real estate broker; one of his sisters is a nurse, one is a banker, and one is a teacher.

After graduating from high school, Bruce joined the United States Navy where he became a jet engine mechanic stationed at a training squadron in Beville, Texas. One day, the squadron

career-counseling officer told him that the Nuclear Navy was looking for guys with high mechanical aptitude scores to change over to the Nuke program. Bruce asked, "What's the Nuke program?" So they proceeded to the office where the officer gave him a file containing a bunch of information about the program. He told him that the Navy was interested in getting more sailors to volunteer for it.

One of the opportunities was something called an Engineering Laboratory Technician (ELT). Bruce explained, "These are the guys that do all of the chemical analysis of the reactor coolant water and steam generator water." Because Bruce was interested in chemistry as well as aviation (not to mention girls and his 1955 Olds 88), it sounded like something he would enjoy. About 3 months later, he was on his way to Mare Island Naval Shipyard where one of the Navy's Nuclear Power Schools was located. It was there that Bruce learned that ELTs also did something called "Radiological Control."

After he finished training and was sent to the "Fleet," Bruce discovered that the chemistry part of being an ELT was, in his words, "boring as hell." "Water chemistry was cookbook stuff, same thing day after day—but the radiological control part often presented me with different challenges," Bruce says, "It allowed me to think and to put theory into practice, solving radiation safety



*Bruce Schoenbucher*

problems." It was then that he decided to go back to school and study Health Physics.

Bruce enrolled at Texas A&M and graduated in 1977 with a BS in Radiological Protection Engineering. He was the first undergraduate student enrolled in the program when it became accredited in 1975. He received an MS in Nuclear Engineering (Health Physics Option) from Texas A&M University in 1982. Professors who had a great impact on his career were Drs. Dick Neff, Ron Hart, Bob Fjeld, and Dan Hightower. In addition to being Bruce's class instructors, they were also on his graduate thesis committee. Dr. Neff was the RSO at Texas A&M and a professor in the Nuclear Engineering (NE) Department. Dr. Hart and Dr. Fjeld were also NE professors. Dr. Hightower was a Professor in the Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology Department. He was also in charge of the Vet School's

Nuclear Medicine program. While Bruce was a grad student, he was the Health Physicist at the Vet School. There he had the opportunity to work with Dr. Hightower. His graduate research involved the use of  $^{67}\text{Ga}$  to image soft tissue tumors in dogs. Bruce says he still runs into Dr. Fjeld ("Bob") at the HPS annual meetings.

When asked about those persons who were important to him in developing and furthering his career in health physics and radiation safety, Bruce responded, "Chief Petty Officer Watt (you can call me by my first name, 'Chief') was very influential." Chief Watt was his immediate supervisor on his second ship. He made Bruce aware of the Health Physics Society and helped him become a member. Had it not been for his membership in the HPS, Bruce says, "I would never have gone to Texas A&M. I would have been a Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket." As Bruce explains it, when he got out of the Navy, he moved to Atlanta, Georgia, with intentions of going to school at Georgia Tech. He returned home one day after interviewing for a job as a chemistry tech in a food-testing lab. In his mailbox was a copy of *The HPS Newsletter*. In the Newsletter was an ad for the position of Health Physicist at the Nuclear Science Center at Texas A&M. He immediately called the number listed in the ad. Bruce says that he was hired to be the junior HP at the Nuclear Science Center at A&M, sight unseen, based on a copy of his résumé and two phone conversations with Dr. Neff.

"Most certainly Dick Neff, Phil Sandel, and John Simek were important to my career development. Dick was important from the academic aspect, while Phil and John trained me in the practical aspects of the job," Bruce explained, "Dr. Neff introduced me to the South Texas Chapter."

"One day in '72, Dick Neff told me that he, the rest of the Radiation Safety Office staff, and a bunch of the graduate students were going to an STC-HPS meeting in Houston on Friday night. He told me to meet them at the Rad Safety Office after work because we would car-pool to Houston. As I recall, Dick didn't even give me a choice, he just said he there." Being a young college student and

a Navy veteran, Bruce says he immediately thought "ROAD TRIP." "There were 6 or 7 of us in Dick's car and a cooler full of beer. Dick had a big old American-made car—this was before the days of the first oil crisis. We only made it to Waller, about halfway to Houston, before the beer ran out, and everyone had to make a pit stop. Refreshed and restocked, we proceeded to Houston and the meeting.

"The meeting was a dinner with a guest speaker. There was also an open bar. Among others, I remember meeting Cliff Winters and Stu Bushong. It's surprising that I remember any of it after the road trip and the open bar. They were a great bunch of folks. Everyone was having a good time. There were a number of very animated conversations at the mixer before dinner, and everyone treated everyone else as an equal—grad student, professor, boss, old, young, none of it mattered—we were all HPs. So I joined right there."

As explained by many of the other long-time members of the Chapter, Bruce describes the meetings in the early days as much less formal. "Meetings then were much more of a social and networking affair than a technical meeting," Bruce remembered. "Even when we started having more technically oriented meetings, the social aspect was a major part of our meetings. That's still true today."

"When the venue permitted, we continued with the open bar. That was part of the duties of the Treasurer—keeping up with what everyone drank, keeping the bar stocked, and transporting it from meeting site to meeting site. The open bar and the fact that we didn't require members to make reservations for meetings is probably part of the reason we were always running out of money in the treasury back then—that and a rather lavish boat trip and meeting on Town Lake in Austin." Bruce fondly remembers that meetings continued on into the wee hours of the morning. "After most meetings, nearly all of us would go to the house of a member that lived in the city where the meeting was held and continue with the socializing." After reflecting for a moment, Bruce concluded: "No one who

attended them back then could ever say that STC meetings were dull."

Bruce sees his membership in the Chapter as an extension of his personal life. "I think of the Chapter more as an extended family than as a Professional Society," he says. "It's kind of like being an Aggie—'once an Ag, always an Ag'—we don't have ex-Aggies, only former students." Bruce says that membership in the South Texas Chapter is a lifetime commitment. "While I was Treasurer, I noticed that there are probably more members of the STC who continue to pay dues even after they have left the geographic boundaries than any other chapter of the HPS. Many of the folks I knew as students at A&M, many of the people I have worked with, and many of those who I have gotten to know through the Chapter over the years are still members. Being a member myself and attending meetings allows me to keep up with them—especially since I am very bad about writing letters. This applies to the national HPS as well. At the National meeting I still run into guys I worked with in the Navy many, many years ago."

Bruce is married to Nancy Schoenbacher, a former STC member. Together, they have 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren (5 months to 16 years old). Every summer, Nancy and Bruce have "Camp Grandma and Grandpa" at their house. It gives them a chance to get all of the grandchildren together at the house for a week without their parents. In Bruce's words: "Everybody wins. Because the grandkids don't all live in the same city any more, they don't get a chance to see each other very much. Nancy and I don't get to see them as much as we would like to, either. So, the annual summer visit is important to us." Bruce is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He spends a lot of time involved in activities such as teaching courses on boating safety and navigation and doing safety patrols on Clear Lake, Galveston Bay, and the upper Houston Ship Channel. He says he loves to ride his motorcycle whenever he can—sometimes Nancy joins him on hers. ♦

South Texas Chapter of Health Physics Society, Inc.

# Affiliates Fair Meeting and Local Arrangements Committee Update

Hyatt Regency San Antonio  
San Antonio, Texas  
November 15–16, 2002

The November 16, 2002, meeting will feature presentations from a variety of affiliate members. Kenneth R. Case, Health Physics Society President-Elect, will deliver the luncheon lecture about future trends of health physics professionals. STC-HPS affiliate members will update the membership about various new products and services available. The afternoon session will finalize any Local Arrangements preparations needed for the 2003 Midyear

Meeting. Finally, attendees will have the opportunity to

*STC-HPS affiliate members will update the membership about various new products and services available.*

evaluate the revised Radiation Safety Compliance Assistant with input from affiliate members.

The Radiation Safety Without Borders initiative

has provided an excellent opportunity for international professional development. STC-HPS President Dr. Robert Emery will discuss his August 2002 envoy to Costa Rica immediately following the luncheon presentation. The STC-HPS was the first chapter to conduct an outreach of this nature. Come and see the pictures of Costa Rica!

The STC-HPS Executive Council will meet on Friday, November 15, 2002, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the

Blanco Conference Room of the Hyatt Regency San Antonio. From 5:30-7:30 following the Executive Council Meeting, an affiliate

*Dr. Robert Emery will discuss his August 2002 envoy to Costa Rica.*

reception will be held. All members are invited to attend the reception!

## *CEUs Awarded for LMP & MRT Certifications†*

*†Based on evaluation of finalized agenda by TDH – Professional Licensure staff.  
STC-HPS members will be notified via e-mail of CEU amounts and affected certifications.*

Future Meetings			
Date	Location	Topic	Deadline for <i>The Billet</i>
November 15 & 16, 2002	Hyatt Hotel, Riverwalk San Antonio, Texas	Affiliates' Vendor Fair & Local Arrangements Committee Mtg	N/A
January 26–29, 2003	Hyatt Hotel, Riverwalk & Convention Cntr San Antonio, Texas	Radiation Safety Aspects of Homeland Security & Emergency Response	N/A
<b>January 28, 2003</b> Tuesday, 7–8 a.m.	<b>Hyatt Hotel</b>	<b>STC Breakfast</b>	N/A
April 2003	Texas A&M University College Station, Texas	Student Papers	February 7, 2003



## Preliminary Agenda

*Hyatt Regency San Antonio*

### Friday, November 15, 2002

- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting  
Pecos Conference Room, Meeting Room Floor Level A
- 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Affiliates Reception (all members welcome)  
Assorted Finger Foods, Cash Bar, Coffee, Juice, Soda  
Llano Room, Meeting Room Floor Level A

### Saturday, November 16, 2002

- 8:00 – 8:20 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast  
Navarro Room Foyer
- 8:20 – 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions – Mike Charlton, Ph.D., STC President-Elect
- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Affiliate Member Demonstrations & Presentations  
Navarro Room
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break and Professional Networking  
Coffee, assorted teas, and baked goods  
Maverick Room
- 10:30 – 12:00 p.m. Affiliate Member Demonstrations & Presentations  
Navarro Room
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Chicken and Beef Fajita Lunch  
Bowie Rooms A&B  
HPS President-Elect, Kenneth Kase  
STC-HPS President Dr. Robert Emery  
Radiation Safety Without Borders—the STC-Costa Rica Connection
- 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Affiliate Member Demonstration & Presentations  
Navarro Room
- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Break – Snacks, Coffee, and Sodas  
Maverick Room
- 3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Radiation Safety Compliance Assistant  
STC-HPS President Dr. Robert Emery  
Maverick Room
- 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Update on 2003 Midyear Meeting  
John Hageman, Co-Chair Local Arrangements Committee  
Dr. Jim Lewis, Co-Chair Local Arrangements Committee

## Accommodations

### Hyatt Regency San Antonio

*On the Riverwalk at Paseo del Alamo  
123 Losoya Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(800) 233-1234 or (210) 222-1234*

**T**he Hyatt Regency San Antonio is located in the center of downtown between the city's two major tourist attractions: The Riverwalk and The Alamo. The Hyatt Regency San Antonio offers fine, ultimate comfort in luxurious accommodations ranging from superior king-bedded rooms to Executive and Presidential Suites. The guestrooms are equipped with the latest technology to meet the lifestyle and

demands of the sophisticated traveler. The Hyatt Regency San Antonio offers a spectacular 16-story garden atrium rising over a waterway that cascades from the Paseo del Alamo through the hotel and meets the San Antonio River. The magnificent lobby welcomes you to 632 guest rooms, including 28 suites and Hyatt Business Plan accommodations.

To accommodate business meetings, conferences, events,

and seminars, the Hyatt Regency San Antonio offers 28 meeting rooms, which include 2 levels of the hotel and an 8,000 square foot Conference Center. The Hyatt Regency San Antonio is situated on the south bank of the Riverwalk, across the street from the historic Alamo, 7 miles from the San Antonio International Airport, 1 block from the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, and it is within walking distance of many popular city attractions.

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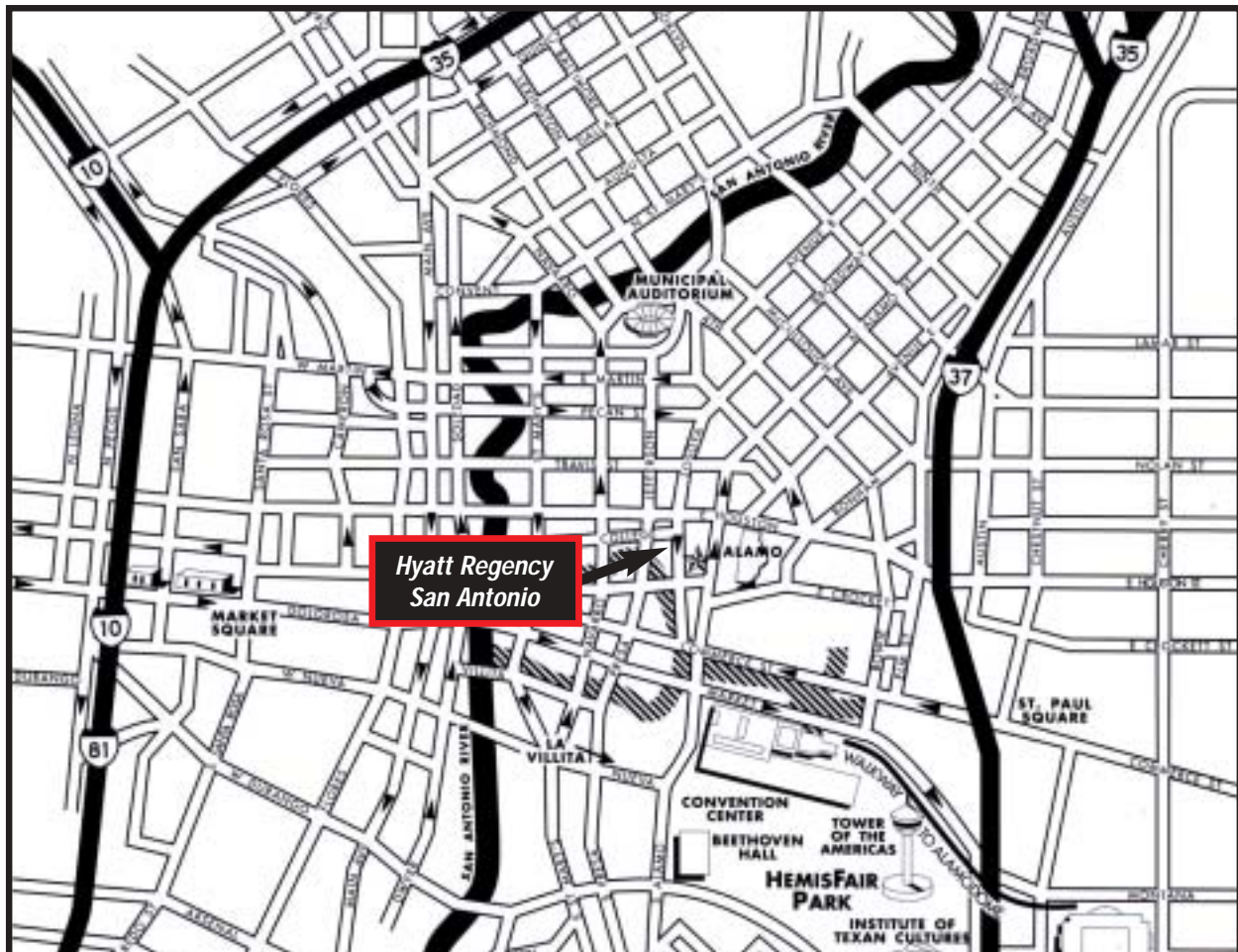
### Hotel Information

- ◆ 11 Floors ◆ AAA Diamonds: 3 Star Hotel
  - ◆ Check-in: 3:00 p.m.; Check-out: 12:00 p.m. ◆ Express Check-in, Express Check-out
  - ◆ Pet policy: service animals for people with disabilities only
  - ◆ Parking: \$13 self parking, \$17 valet (both include daily in/out privileges)
- 

#### Notice:

A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday, November 15, and Saturday, November 16, 2002, until October 28, 2002, under the name "Health Physics Society." The event name is "South Texas Chapter Meeting." Room rates will be \$91 government rate per night, single or double occupancy, and nongovernment rate \$142 per night. Room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes. A limited number of rooms are available at the government per diem. Be prepared to show a government ID upon check-in. To secure these excellent rates, you must call the reservation telephone number listed above EARLY and specify that you are with the South Texas Chapter Health Physics Society. After the reservation deadline, Hyatt Regency anticipates that no rooms will be available at this rate, so make your reservations early!

## Map of Downtown San Antonio to Hyatt Regency San Antonio



### Hyatt Regency San Antonio

*On the Riverwalk at Paseo del Alamo  
123 Losoya Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(800) 233-1234 or (210) 222-1234*

#### Driving Directions

- ◆ IH-37 and US Highway 281 combine and form one road through downtown San Antonio
- ◆ Take IH-37 and US Highway 281 to Exit 141B "Houston St./The Alamo" (Elm Street) and go 0.2 miles
- ◆ Continue on Elm Street and go 200 feet
- ◆ Turn right onto Houston Street and go 1,000 feet
- ◆ Turn right onto 3rd Street and go 0.2 miles
- ◆ Turn left onto Broadway and go 1,000 feet
- ◆ Bear left onto Losoya Street and go 500 feet to the Hyatt Regency San Antonio

## Registration

*Please submit a registration form for each member or guest attending the meeting and mail to the address below.*

### Affiliates Fair Meeting and Local Arrangements Committee Update

November 15–16, 2002

Hyatt Regency San Antonio ♦ San Antonio, Texas

### Pre-Registration Form

**Hotel Registration Deadline — October 28, 2002 ♦ STC Registration Deadline — November 1, 2002**

Attendee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee's Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- STC Member (technical session and lunch) - \$ 45
- STC Member (technical session ONLY) - \$ 25
- Non-STC Member (technical session and lunch) - \$ 55\*\*
- Non-STC Member (technical session ONLY) - \$ 40
- Non-STC Member (lunch ONLY) - \$ 35\*
- Student (technical session and lunch) - \$ 10
- Need a receipt for this meeting
- Need CEU certificate

Mail registration form(s) with your check (made payable to the STC-HPS) to arrive **before November 1, 2002**, to:

Kenneth V. Krieger  
5003 Northfield Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78228-1064  
Phone (210) 271-0925  
Fax (210) 271-3061

**Pre-registration will close on November 1, 2002.** If you will not be able to attend the meeting, please call and cancel your reservation **PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2002**. Any reservations **not cancelled by November 1, 2002**, will be regarded as confirmed reservations and funds will be collected for the meeting. Refunds will be honored only for cancellations made before November 1, 2002. Registration fees collected after November 1, 2002, or at the door, if available, will be \$10 extra.

\*If contemplating on-site purchase of lunch, meeting space and lunch cannot be guaranteed on the day of the meeting.

\*\*Nonmembers may select the option of applying for South Texas Chapter–Health Physics Society membership at the meeting and enjoy privileges of membership at future Chapter events.

## South Texas Chapter – Health Physics Society Chapter Dues Payment/Membership Application Form

*(Please Print – This information is used for mailing labels and directory listing.)*

Name _____	Business Name _____
Home Address _____	Business Address _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Home Phone _____	Business Phone _____
Home Fax _____	Business Fax _____
Email _____	

<input type="checkbox"/> I would prefer to receive mail at: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> I would prefer to receive calls at: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Business  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I am a National HPS member. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I am a Certified Health Physicist. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I am a Registered Radiation Protection Technologist.	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be a Meeting Mentor My interest or area of expertise _____ _____
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Please check the STC-HPS committee(s) on which you would like to actively serve.

<input type="checkbox"/> Nominating	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Publications
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate	<input type="checkbox"/> Other/Ad Hoc
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Assistance			

Enclosed is my check # \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the STC-HPS for the following:

STC-HPS dues for the year:

Regular membership:	\$10.00/yr × _____ Years	= \$ _____
Student membership:	\$5.00/yr × _____ Years	= \$ _____
Student Scholarship Fund Donation (tax deductible)*		= \$ _____
Science Teachers Workshop Donation (tax deductible)*		= \$ _____
Total Enclosed		= \$ _____

\*For two \$10 donations you get a free STC lapel pin.

Please mail this form with your check or money order (please do not mail cash) to:

David B. Fogle Membership Committee Chair 2135 Cervin Blvd Austin, TX 78728	Phone: (512) 834-6688, x2203 Fax: (512) 834-6690 Email: david.fogle@tdh.state.tx.us
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## SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER-HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY 2002 AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

The affiliate membership of the South Texas Chapter (STC) is listed below. Our affiliates help support our Chapter functions, and we should support them. They contribute substantially to the STC, and each should be thanked by our considering their products or services first. Also, tell them we sent you.

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**Health Physics Society  
South Texas Chapter**

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## **Radiation Safety Aspects of Homeland Security and Emergency Response**

*January 26–29, 2003*

### *Technical Tour*

#### **Brooks Air Force Base**

Wednesday, January 29  
8:00 a.m.–12:00 Noon  
Pre \$15/On Site \$20

An outdoor display in several large Alaska Shelters (40x20' tents) will show the hardware and capabilities of the Air Force Radiation Assessment Team (AFRAT)—as featured in the recent movie “Sum of All Fears.” There will be a complete setup of a mobile radioanalytical laboratory (Radiation Reconnaissance Laboratory), a deployable dosimetry package (Field Laboratory for the Assessment of Radiation Exposure), and

field monitoring equipment (air samplers, ground monitors, mobile mapping systems). Participants will get a good overview of one of the DOD’s primary radiological response assets. No clearance information is required, but the tour is limited to the first 50 registrants.

### *Location*

#### **San Antonio, Texas**

Join your colleagues in sunny Texas for the 2003 Joint Topical Meeting

Come and visit the famous Alamo, the Riverwalk, and the missions that are all a part of San Antonio. You will enjoy this walkable city

with its diverse culture, and ethnic food and entertainment in abundance. The weather should be mild and the Local Committee has arranged special events during your stay.

### *Host Hotel*

#### **Hyatt Regency San Antonio on the Riverwalk**

The Hyatt Regency San Antonio on the Riverwalk is the host hotel for the Health Physics Society’s Midyear Meeting. The weekend activities will take place at the Hyatt, while the General Session and Exhibits will take place at the nearby Convention Center. The hotel

is located in the center of the popular Riverwalk with walking access to a multitude of restaurants and shops. The hotel has more than 600 rooms, each with hair dryers, coffee makers, and dataport phones. Room rates are \$138 single/double for our meeting. Call (800) 233-1234 or (210) 222-1234 and ask for reservations for the Health Physics Society meeting prior to the January 3, 2003, deadline date for these rates. Parking rates at the hotel are currently \$12 per day for self parking and \$16 per day for valet parking. ♦

***Preregistration deadline January 3, 2003***

**For additional information, see the HPS website, [www.hps.org](http://www.hps.org)**