

Past President's Message Kamran Vaziri

After the spectacular Accelerator Section midyear we did not have quite the attendance of the previous years at the 2008 annual meeting. I will share some of the highlights of the meeting with you.

Annual technical session

The keynote speaker for our session was Nolan Hertel from Georgia Institute of Technology who gave the very timely talk "A Review of High-Energy Dose Conversion Coefficients". This was followed by several other interesting presentations, including one on skyshine by the 2008 Wade H. Patterson award winner Deirdre Elder.

Wade Patterson awards

Dr. Sam Baker from Argonne National Laboratory was the judge for the Wade Patterson award. Sam reviewed several posters and presentations related to accelerator health physics, not limited to those submitted under the Accelerator Section. We thank Sam for a job well done! The Accelerator Section is pleased to announce this year's two honorees for the H. Wade Patterson Award. The winner of the H. Wade Patterson Award for the best accelerator-related paper went to Deirdre Elder for her paper on "Skyshine Radiation due to the Colorado State University Veterinary Medical Center Trilogy Accelerator". Deirdre is a student at the Colorado State University in Fort Collins Colorado. Deirdre received a plaque and \$250 honorarium. The runner up for the Wade Patterson award was Robert O'Brien who received an honorable mention for his work on "Shielding and Radiation Dose Analysis for a Dense-Plasma Focus Neutron Source" Robert is a student at *University of Nevada, in Las Vegas*. Robert received a certificate of merit.

The names of our two winners were announced at the awards banquet and will be published in the Health Physics Journal later this year. We congratulate Deirdre and Robert for their excellent work.

Business meeting

The business meeting started at noon following the technical session. The Wade Patterson awards were presented to the students. The minutes of the board of directors meeting were read and some of the main issues were further discussed. The issue of a Question and Answer (Q/A) link on the Accelerator Section web page has been put to the HPS board of directors by our Section's liaison Nolan Hertel. Currently, questions are submitted to our newsletter editor. After review by the editor and the board of directors for relevance and making sure it is not a disguised commercial, it is sent to the Section members. It is asked that the members respond directly to the person who asked the question. With the approval of the HPS board of directors, the Q/A will also be reviewed further for legal issues. Once the Q/A passed this filter, it will be posted on the Ask-An-Expert web page of the Health Physics Society.

Marcia Torres the treasurer has reported that as of 6/30/2008, the section's account balance was \$9066.96.

It was announced that Scott Walker has been nominated as the Section's IRPA12 delegate. A few weeks later we received the news that the HPS board of directors approved Scott's nomination.

The results of the election of the Section's officers were announced. I would like to welcome the new officers: Linnea Wahl president-elect, Mike Sandvig Section Secretary, Scott Walker, newsletter editor, Sam Baker Board of Directors. I would also thank the outgoing officers for their hard work and contribution to the Section. Henry Kahnhauser adjourned the business meeting.

Finally, at the Monday night Accelerator Section board of directors meeting (as my last presidential act), I appointed Henry Kahnhauser to chair a committee who's job is to write clear Accelerator Section officer job descriptions complete with a standard function timeline. This will aid the future officers. The next day at the end of the business meeting, Henry, as his first act as the president, appointed me as a member of this committee!