

Diane Kewley-Port; Spanish and English in Contact by Ann Bradlow and Winifred Strange; Perception and Production of Hearing Impaired by Mario Svirsky and Jorge Gurlekin; and Feature Extraction and Models for Speech (Joint with Signal Processing, Shrikanth Narayanan and Antonio Diaz. Nashville was a very successful meeting with the following special sessions: Neurally Plausible Models for Speech Perception by Robert Port and Frank Guenther; Man and Machine in Cocktail Parties by Pierre Divenyi and Dan Ellis; Acoustic and Perceptual Characteristics of Special Registers by Sarah Hargus Ferguson; and The Funding Game: Strategies for Different Federal Agencies by Astrid Schmidt-Nielsen and Patrice Beddor.

DIANE KEWLEY-PORT

*Chair*

#### *Structural Acoustics and Vibration*

The Cancun meeting (Fall 2002) offered some first time opportunities for close interaction with colleagues from the Iberoamerican Federation of Acoustics and the Mexican Institute of Acoustics. The meeting seemed to be a popular attraction, perhaps because of the location, but there were also many good papers delivered at the meeting. The structural acoustics and vibration TC sponsored four special sessions at this meeting. "Reconstruction of acoustic radiation from vibrating structures" was organized by Sean Wu of Wayne State University, "Analysis, measurement and control of structural intensity" was organized by Sabih Hayek of Penn State University, "Vibration of floors in buildings" was organized by Eric Ungar of Acentech, and "Energy methods in vibroacoustics analysis and control" was organized by Jose Arruda of the Universidad Estadual de Campinas in Brazil and Steve Hambric of Penn State University. Even though the meeting was held in Mexico, we had good student participation in our student paper competition. Tatiana Semenova from Wayne State University was the first place winner for her paper entitled "On the validity and convergence of the Helmholtz equation least squares solution." Cecile Goffaux from Univ. Notre-Dame de la Paix in Belgium was the second place winner for the paper entitled "Evidence of the existence of phononic band gaps: A practical example of a tunable sound insulation by a periodic device of rods." Sean Wu (Wayne State University) and Leon Keer (Northwestern University), both of whom are associated with structural acoustics, were presented as new Fellows of ASA at the Cancun meeting, and we wish to congratulate both of them.

At the Nashville meeting (Spring 2003), the structural acoustics and vibration TC sponsored two special sessions. "Structural acoustics of musical instruments" was organized by Jeff Vipperman (University of Pittsburgh) and Peter Hojke (Baldwin-Wallace College) and was joint with the musical acoustics TC. This session seemed particularly appropriate for the Nashville meeting. The second special session was "Interior noise in aircraft and rocket fairings," and was organized by Robert Clark, Jr. from Duke University. The TC again sponsored a student paper competition, and we had a rather large number of students participate, which we were pleased to see. Anne-Marie Albanese from Georgia Tech University was our first place winner for her paper entitled "When things go crunch: Gap length effects on a magnetorheological tunable vibration absorber." Vesna Damljanovic from the University of Illinois was the second place winner for her paper entitled "Towards a laser-vibrometry technique for measuring railroad rail stress." Scott Sommerfeldt was presented as a new Fellow of ASA at the Nashville meeting.

Lance Locey has been serving as our representative on the ASA Student Council, and has done a good job of helping us be more aware of student issues. We continue to have four associate editors for JASA in structural acoustics: Jerry Ginsberg, Andrew Norris, Richard Weaver, and Earl Williams. Paul Remington is an associate editor for ARLO in structural acoustics. Mauro Pierruci is the representative for structural acoustics on the Medals and Awards Committee, and we appreciate his efforts there. He has been instrumental in getting some of our members nominated for well-deserved awards, and the fruits of his labors will be apparent at the Austin meeting. Courtney Burroughs has served as our representative on the Membership Committee, and Joe Dickey, another member of the structural acoustics and vibration TC has just completed nine years of service as the Chair of the Membership Committee. In addition, Courtney was elected as the new Chair of the structural acoustics and vibration TC, and took over those responsibilities at the end of the Nashville meeting. He will most certainly

bring the same dedicated service to this position that has characterized his other involvement in the ASA.

SCOTT D. SOMMERFELDT

*Chair 2000–2003*

#### *Underwater Acoustics*

The main activities of the Underwater Acoustics Technical Committee (UWTC) centered around the Cancun and Nashville meetings.

The UWTC representative to the Cancun Technical Program Organizing Meeting (TPOM) was Michael Collins. Because of a number of special circumstances (including the attractiveness of Cancun!) this meeting held an unusually high number of special sessions that were of interest to the underwater acoustics community. A special session on Geoclutter and Boundary Characterization proved to be so popular that it was split into two sessions: the first cochaired by Charles Holland and John Preston, the second cochaired by Purnima Ratilal and Nicholas Makris. A similar circumstance occurred with a special session on Littoral Environmental Variability and Its Acoustic Effects that was cosponsored by the Acoustical Oceanography TC. This session had to be split into three sessions: the first cochaired by Finn Jensen and James Lynch, the second cochaired by Peter Dahl and James Lynch, and the third cochaired by Timothy Duda and Bruce Pasewark. Another special session on Underwater Acoustic Measurement Laboratories was organized by Carlos Ranz-Guerra. As if this were not enough, the UWTC was also cosponsor of two other special sessions: A Memorial Session honoring the work of David Weston (led by the Acoustical Oceanography Committee) and Acoustic Automatic Target Recognition (led by the Signal Processing Committee).

The UWTC was very pleased to have 19 papers submitted for the student paper competition. The winners were Eric Giddens and Gareth Block. The chairman of the judges committee was Mohsen Badiey.

Peter Gerstoft and John Perkins represented the UWTC at the Nashville TPOM. This meeting featured a Memorial Session in honor of Frederick Tappert, organized by David Palmer. The UWTC was also one of several committees to cosponsor a Memorial Session in honor of Richard Bolt. The UWTC joined the Acoustical Oceanography and Signal Processing Committees to cosponsor a session on Geoacoustic Inversion. There were so many contributed papers for this session that it was split into three sessions: the first chaired by Peter Gerstoft, the second chaired by Ross Chapman, and the third again chaired by Peter Gerstoft. This last session was followed by a lively panel discussion on the status and future of geoacoustic inversion. Another popular special session on Robust Passive Sonar had to be split into two sessions. These sessions were cochaired by Lisa Zurk and Brian Tracey. A special session on High Frequency Sediment Acoustics, cosponsored by the Acoustical Oceanography Committee, was organized by Eric Thorsos. The UWTC was also cosponsor of a special session on Bioacoustic Resonance Spectroscopy organized by Orest Diachok.

As for student activities at Nashville, we were pleased to continue our habit of cosponsoring an evening reception with a group of other Technical Committees. The food was not the best we've had at student receptions, but it was (as usual) a large and lively group. The UWTC also held a student paper competition in Nashville. The winners were Ben Dzikowicz and Curtis Osterhoudt.

Prior to the Cancun meeting, The Underwater Acoustics Technical Committee and the Acoustical Oceanography Technical Committee agreed to form a joint Subcommittee to explore ways to minimize the problems we have been having with an abundance of overlapping sessions that are of interest to both groups. At the Nashville meeting the two Committees agreed to restrict the number of special sessions sponsored by each committee to two. It was further agreed that this rule could be violated for special circumstances—for example, if the two Committees are cosponsoring a named session, such as a memorial session.

Dr. Peter Dahl of the Applied Physics Laboratory of the University of Washington has been elected to serve a three year term as Chairman of the Underwater Acoustics Technical Committee. It should also be noted that Peter Rogers is stepping up to the Chairmanship of the Membership Committee and David Bradley is stepping up to the Chairmanship of the Medals and Awards Committee.

JOHN S. PERKINS

*Chair 2000–2003*