

# THE *BILLET* STC NEWSLETTER

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER of the HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

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Mark Your Long-Range Calendars for September 2010

# 2010 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference

Doubletree Hotel Austin • 6505 IH-35 North • Austin, Texas

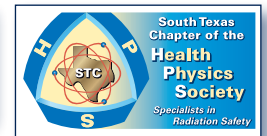
Hosted Jointly by:

Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Texas Railroad Commission

South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society



Information important to Radiation Safety Officers (RSOs), users of radiation, and other radiation safety staff will be presented.

- New Rules
- Rule Changes
- New Policies
- Compliance

### Special Sessions

|                   |                  |                         |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| September 3, 2010 | Friday Morning   | Laser Rules             |
| September 3, 2010 | Friday Afternoon | X-Ray Service Providers |
| September 4, 2010 | All Day Saturday | Mammography CEUs        |

### Special Activities


|                                |                      |   |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| September 1, 2010<br>Wednesday | 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.  | Pre-Meeting Registration & Reception              |
|                                | 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  | STC Executive Council Meeting                     |
|                                | 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. | Free Shuttle from Hotel to Entertainment District |
| September 2, 2010<br>Thursday  | 7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  | Radiation Equipment & Service Displays            |
|                                | 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.  | Banquet (Included in Registration Fee) & Speaker  |
| September 3, 2010<br>Friday    | 7:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Radiation Equipment & Service Displays            |

★★★ See pages 12–16 for upcoming meeting information. ★★★

# Thankful for Your Worthwhile Donations

David Fogle

**T**he Executive Council of the South Texas Chapter - Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) wishes to thank and laud the following persons who donated to the Chapter's education funds during 2009 membership renewals received from June 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009. These funds directly support the Chapter's educational mission. Donations to these funds are tax-deductible. Affiliates are welcome to donate to these funds as well. Look for *your name, or your company's name*, in the next issue of *The Billet!*

Note something different this issue? Ralph Heyer of Thermo Fisher Scientific, a former STC Board Director, donated several meeting registrations to Texas State Technical College students who wanted to attend the meeting. STC Past-President and current Student Assistance Committee Chair, Linda Morris, has also paid for many student memberships on behalf of TSTC students in the past. *Way to go, guy and gal!* Y'all's example should serve as a catalyst to get others thinking of other ways to support the STC's education mission. 

While speaking at a conference in Singapore, STC-HPS member Bob Emery from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston made an unusual discovery. Apparently our profession is available in sauce form there, and when used liberally on local fare, Emery reports, "It's pretty good."



## Scholarship Fund

Steve Allen  
Charles R. Williams  
John Haygood  
The Delphi Group, Inc.



## Science Teacher Workshop Fund

Steve Allen  
Charles R. Williams  
The Delphi Group, Inc.



## Student Sponsorship at an STC Meeting

Ralph Heyer

## STCNEWS

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Taking the Lead: Health Physics  
Pioneering Program Provides Access to Rapidly Expanding Field

Biruk Desta, Brandon Georgetown, and Samantha Everett

# Texas Southern University (TSU) Students

Elena Stefanova

**Samantha Everett, Biruk Desta, and Brandon Georgetown** make up the first wave of students graduating in 2010 from the Health Physics Program at Texas Southern University. Fully sponsored by the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission, the Health Physics Program was launched in the fall of 2008 and offers bachelor's degrees in Health Physics to its participants.

The curriculum was initiated and developed

by Dr. Stefanova with full support from Dr. Handy, the Chair of the Physics Department at TSU. The physics-based program curriculum is near graduate-school level in intensity and includes extensive radiation detection and

radiation protection training. The specialized radiation physics preparation is supported by two faculty members with PhDs in Nuclear Physics: Dr. Elena Stefanova and Dr. Mark Harvey.



For more information about the TSU Health Physics Program, visit

<http://physics.tsu.edu/Academics/BSHealth.php>

## Health Physics Society (HPS)

### Radiation Fact Sheets

<http://hps.org/hpspublications/radiationfactsheets.html>

Pete and Karen Myers

In previous articles, information has been provided on HPS/ANSI Standards and HPS Position Statements (see *The Billet*, Vol. 30, No. 2, April 30, 2009, and *The Billet*, Vol. 30, No. 3, August 18, 2009). Also available on the HPS Web site are Radiation Fact Sheets, which provide valuable information on many topics of interest to Health Physicists:

- Tanning Salons Fact Sheet (June 10, 2008)
- Food Irradiation
- Radiation Exposure and Pregnancy
- Radiation Exposure from Medical Diagnostic Imaging Procedures
- Consumer Products Containing Radioactive Materials
- Is Potassium Iodide a Magic Bullet for Radiation Exposure?
- Fact Sheet on Potassium Iodide (KI)
- Fact Sheet on Depleted Uranium (DU)
- Fact Sheet on Polonium-210 (March 2007)
- Mobile Telephones Fact Sheet (September 2009)

National media reports that the World Health Organization (WHO) may soon be releasing a study that links cell phone use to increased risk of brain and salivary gland tumors, and this is stirring up public interest in the topic. It is nice, therefore, to see a recently published HPS Fact Sheet on mobile telephones. For your information, AOL's Switched.com, a consumer tech news site, has a brief article that indicates that there are "legitimate questions about this particular (WHO) study's methodology." (see <http://www.switched.com/2009/10/27/cell-phones-cause-cancer-says-world-health-organization>). The HPS Fact Sheet states: "Currently available evidence shows that use of mobile phones or exposure to their base-station emissions does not cause brain cancer or any other health effect. Epidemiology data regarding long-term (more than 10 years) use of mobile phones are very sparse and unreliable and do not permit conclusions to be drawn about possible risks from long-term use of mobile phones." Much more technical information is also provided in the HPS Fact Sheet.



SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER *of the* HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.

## Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting

September 19, 2009

Jennifer Watson, Secretary

### Persons in Attendance

#### Executive Council (EC) Members:

Stan Bravenec.....President  
 Karen Blanchard .....President-Elect  
 Jay Poston.....Past-President  
 Jennifer Watson .....Secretary  
 Douglas Johnson.....EC Member  
 John White .....EC Member  
 Sam Daniel .....EC Member

#### Committee Chairpersons:

Pete & Karen Myers..Admissions Chair/  
 Publications Chair  
 John Hageman.....*The Billet* Editor  
 Al Evans .....Science Teacher  
 Workshop

#### Chapter Members & Guests:

Ken Krieger.....STC Member  
 Melissa Hageman .....Guest  
 Jim Sharp.....STC Member

| Agenda Item                        | Discussion   | Action  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Call to Order 6:09 p.m.            | Quorum established and Pledge of Allegiance  | N/A   |
| Agenda Approval                    | Move to approve the agenda as written  | <i>Committee Vote:</i><br>Approved  |
| May 2009 STC-HPS Executive Meeting | Motion to approve the minutes from the May 2009 meeting<br>Motion: Karen Blanchard<br>Second: Doug Johnson   | <i>Committee Vote:</i><br>Approved  |
| President's Report                 | Thanks to Jay Poston and Family for hosting the Executive Council Meeting in his home.   |   |
|                                    | <p>A proposal was made to remove the Task Force on Nuclear Training Endeavors based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse Program has been suspended since January 2007.</li> <li>b) No progress has been made on the Radiation Event Preparedness Registry.</li> </ul> <p>The Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse Program was suspended out of Oak Ridge due to a lack of inventory control. There has been no response to phone calls and it is assumed to still be suspended.</p> <p>There has been no progress on the Radiation Event Preparedness Registry. It is the understanding of the EC that this project is in the hands of the STRAC in San Antonio.</p> <p>Motion to dissolve the task force since it has been removed, and have Stan Bravenec contact Bob Emery and Marty Meltz separately to follow up on the registry.<br/>                     Motion: Doug Johnson<br/>                     Second: Karen Blanchard</p> | <p><i>Committee Vote:</i><br/>Approved</p> <p><i>Action Item:</i> Stan Bravenec will follow up with Marty Meltz and Bob Emery on Registry</p> |
|                                    | A large thanks goes to Pete and Karen Myers for an incredible article on Chapter activities that will be published in the National newsletter, and for submitting <i>The Billet</i> articles.  |   |
|                                    | Thanks to David Fogle for continuation of the STC Web site. It is now under his authority. The server was just renewed for another 20 years.   |   |

| Agenda Item                                    | Discussion  | Action  |
|--|---|---|
| <p>President's Report<br/><i>continued</i></p> | <p>We need to recruit a Webmaster to keep the Web site up-to-date and release SwRI from the duties. John White is going to ask his son if he can take over these duties.</p> <p>David Fogle is working with PaymenTech to get our payment method up-to-date by introducing the online payment option for meetings, conferences, etc.</p>  |   |
|  | <p>National President Howard Dickson has appointed Ed Bailey as the Chapter Liaison. Ed is a current volunteer on the STC Program Committee.</p>  |   |
|  | <p>The Nominations Chair is vacant. We applaud David Fogle for all his excellent work as Nominations Chair in getting awards and Chapter officers. He has chosen an excellent group of officers each time and worked to get many awards for our Chapter from National.</p> <p>The Publications Committee and the Public Relations Committee Chairs are to be combined and Pete and Karen Myers are the Committee Chairs.</p>  |   |
|  | <p>The amendment in the By-Law language to allow for voting and ballots by electronic methods will be voted on in the meeting on September 19, 2009.</p>  |   |
| <p>President-Elect's Report</p>                | <p>Ludlum Measurements held its first users' group meeting in San Antonio. We had discussed a co-sponsorship situation with them for the meeting but they eventually met on their own. Several members attended, as did Howard Dickson, National HPS President, who gave a presentation. The STC membership and science teacher workshop brochures were displayed. It was a very successful meeting with outstanding entertainment. Ludlum is to be commended for its successful efforts—it was the very first of hopefully many users' group meetings. A lot was learned by Ludlum staff as to the user concerns, and the users obtained valuable information.</p> | <p><i>Action Item:</i> Karen Blanchard will be working to get volunteers to work the table.</p> |
|  | <p>The STC Breakfast at the National HPS meeting in Minneapolis was held at Hell's Kitchen and from all reports, it was a smashing success! Good attendance, great food, and unique atmosphere.</p>   |   |
|  | <p>Preparatory efforts have begun for the 2010 Regulatory Conference. The Texas Department of State Health Services, South Texas Chapter, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will be participating. Pete and Karen Myers, and Karen Blanchard will be the South Texas Chapter Representatives and David Fogle will be the representative for the DSHS side in planning the conference.</p>   |   |
|  | <p>An advance notice email will be sent out to all registrants and licensees by the end of September. The email will include reference to a survey page on the DSHS Web site that will be able to accommodate some of the interests for the meeting and evaluate the satisfaction from the previous regulatory conference. TCEQ will send out the same email to those individuals regulated by this agency.</p>   |   |
|  | <p>A big thank you for the outstanding work that Pete and Karen Myers continue to do in preparing for each regulatory conference.</p>   |   |

*continued on page 6*

| Agenda Item                                  | Discussion   | Action  |
|--|--|---|
| President-Elect's Report<br><i>continued</i> | The hotel arrangements for the 2010 Regulatory Conference have been finalized. The group will set up a committee meeting toward the end of September where they will continue planning the specifics of the Conference.  |   |
| Treasurer's Report                           | The total assets of the Chapter are \$120,093.45, including an increase of \$6,802.86 from membership dues, affiliate dues, scholarship donations, and teacher workshop donations.<br>Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report<br>Motion: Karen Blanchard<br>Second: Doug Johnson  | <i>Committee Vote:</i><br>Approved  |
|  | There were questions regarding the reimbursement from National for the Midyear Meeting. John Hageman was going to ask Lori about the check.  | <i>Action Item:</i> John Hageman will contact National regarding the Midyear Meeting check. |
| Secretary's Report                           | No report at this time.  |   |
| Membership Report                            | Current STC membership is up to 242 members, 10 members more than last year. Voted on new members.<br>Motion to accept members<br>Motion: Karen Blanchard<br>Second: John White  |   |
| <b>WELCOME<br/>NEW<br/>STC<br/>MEMBERS!</b>  | <b>New Members:</b><br>Chen, Gary – TAMU<br>Butkus, Michael – TAMU<br>Kirk, J. Scott – Waste Control Specialists<br>Williams, Charles – U.S. Army Med. Dept. Ctr. & School<br>Pate, William – UTHSCSA<br>Avila, Joseph – Shell Global Solutions<br>Hammond, Eric – Champion Technologies<br>Judge, James – INEOS USA LLC<br>Lehr, Scott – Champion Technologies<br>Machajewski, Dennis – Lexicon Pharmaceuticals<br>Olsen, Doretta – USAF Wilford Hall MedCen<br>Reed, Paula – Kell West Regional Hospital<br>Samaniego, David – Austin Community College<br>Farley, Brittany – TSTC<br>Roberts, Chloe – STC Science Fair Winner<br>Williams, Wesley – HPS Student Science Awardee | <i>Committee Vote:</i><br>Approval of new STC members.<br>Congratulations!                  |
|  | On August 26, 2009, 38 of the 2008 members received emailed invitations to become 2009 members.<br><br>Four Affiliate member representatives are also individual members:<br>Steven Allen – AEIL<br>Carl Forbes – EarthTech<br>Betty Hail – Owens Scientific<br>Rob O'Donel – Suntrac Services   |   |
| Program Committee                            | The Affiliates Fair should be well-attended tomorrow. The hotel staff has been a great help with pre-conference planning. Forty-two members have pre-registered and 17 Affiliates will be present to work 15 tables and give 12 presentations. During lunch,   |   |

★ ★ ★ **WELCOME NEW STC MEMBERS, listed above.** ★ ★ ★

| Agenda Item                           | Discussion   | Action  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Program Committee<br><i>continued</i> | John White will offer an update on the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission activities. We will also be presenting the Associate and Graduate Scholarships and the HPS Student-Science Award.   |   |
|                                       | The January 8–9, 2010, meeting topic is Proton Therapy at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Past-President Jay Poston offered this topic and continues to make arrangements for this meeting. He is trying to secure a meeting space near the proton therapy facility and we are recruiting people for presentations. HPS President-Elect Ed Maher will be visiting our Chapter for this meeting and will be our lunchtime speaker. Thanks again to Jay Poston for his work coordinating the program for this meeting. |   |
|                                       | The Student Papers and Annual Business Meeting will be held in College Station on April 9–10, 2010. The A&M student research projects should be completed by then, allowing for an increase in student participation. Ken Krieger talked to Dr. Poston about ways to get more participation and as a result, the TSTC students will be in attendance as a part of their class work. Local members will be recruited for planning the meeting. There will be increased monetary student awards for the best papers.         |   |
| Legislative Committee                 | Pete Myers contacted TDSHS and TCEQ to put together a list of interested parties. Pete Myers is going to begin to review the regulatory draft rules. The TRAB meets and generates reports and will send them to Pete Myers.  |   |
|                                       | The legislature is going to give the LLRW Commission \$100,000 for travel.   |   |
| Affiliate Committee Report            | There are four Affiliates behind on dues and they will be recruited tomorrow to pay their outstanding dues.  |   |
| Publications Committee                | Pete and Karen Myers wrote an excellent article on the Chapter that will show up in the National newsletter.   |   |
| Nominations Committee                 | The Chapter would like to thank David Fogle for his excellent service in this position for the past couple of years. The Executive Council will be working on finding a replacement for David Fogle.   | <i>Action Item:</i> Find a replacement for Nominations Committee Chair. |
|                                       | Nominations will be taken in early spring for President-Elect, Secretary, and Board Member. We will be reviewing the requirements from National HPS for officers to verify which positions require the National HPS membership.  |   |
| <i>The Billet</i>                     | The meeting dates have been finalized and the September 2010 Meeting/Regulatory Conference will serve as the Affiliates Meeting for next year. The location for the January 2011 meeting is still to be determined and the April 2011 meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in Waco, Texas.  |   |
| Science Teacher Workshop              | The CAST-9 will be held in Galveston at the Moody Gardens on November 5–7, 2009. The STC has an exhibition booth reserved that will be open Thursday, November 5, from 1:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until noon.   |   |

*continued on page 8*

| Agenda Item                               | Discussion   | Action  |
|---|--|---|
| Science Teacher Workshop <i>continued</i> | STC has a Science Teacher Workshop scheduled for Friday, November 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Sandpiper Room of the Holiday Inn on the Beach. Five people are scheduled to work it so far, but we will need a few more volunteers because the timeframes of the workshop and exhibit overlap. Volunteers are Sam Daniel, Ken Krieger, Jim and Sharon Sharp, and Al Evans. Those interested in participating should let Al Evans know in advance so they can receive name tags for the events.  |   |
|   | The Texas Chapters of the APS and AAPT are meeting at Texas State University in San Marcos on October 22–24. This is a good central location for the Workshop. I spoke with Tom Okuma, AAPT Coordinator for Workshops, and he is agreeable. He suggests scheduling from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Deadline for submission is soon after the Galveston meeting.  |   |
|   | We will need to create notebooks, CDs and a good number of meters for the 2 full classes. Karen Blanchard is going to check on the numbers of meters still located at DSHS.  | <i>Action Item:</i> Karen Blanchard is going to check on the numbers of meters still located at DSHS. |
| Student Assistance Committee              | Thanks to the skills of Pete and Karen Myers, a San Antonio high school student, Wesley Williams, was selected to receive the HPS Student Science Award.   |   |
|   | The Education Grant Winners are as follows:<br><br><b>Associate Degree Winner:</b> Audrea Tamez from TSTC completed her Chemistry degree in August and is working on her Advanced Technical Certificate in Health Physics. She is working at Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant–Glenrose in a cooperative training position through TSTC.<br><br><b>Graduate Degree Winner:</b> Randall Alex Redd from TAMU is a doctoral student majoring in Health Physics. He received excellent letters of recommendation from Dr. Stephen Guetersloh and Dr. Leslie Braby. His future plans include working in Health Physics with a possible return to academia as a professor. |   |
|   | <b>The Neff-Poston Award:</b> The Neff-Poston Award went to Shawn Schepel, who is entering his fourth year as a Radiological Health and Engineering major at TAMU. In addition to his academics, Shawn has been active in University activities, such as the TAMU basketball team.   |   |
|   | The 2010 Science Fairs are coming up soon and will require chapter members to volunteer as science fair judges. The dates are as follows:<br><br><b>Central Texas Science &amp; Engineering Fair</b> (Waco)<br>February 23–24, 2010 (Linda Morris)   |   |

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS? CHANGING office? Home? Phone?  
NOTIFY Pete Myers AT [Pete.Myers6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Pete.Myers6@sbcglobal.net)



| Agenda Item                                   | Discussion  | Action |
|---|---|--------|
| Student Assistance Committee <i>continued</i> | <p><b>Austin Energy Regional Science Festival</b><br/>February 24–27, 2010 (Need volunteers)</p> <p><b>Science &amp; Engineering Fair of Houston</b><br/>March 11–13, 2010 (Stan Bravenec and Jay Poston)</p> <p><b>Alamo Regional Science &amp; Engineering Fair</b><br/>March 12–14, 2010 (Need volunteers)</p> <p><b>ExxonMobil Texas Science &amp; Engineering Fair</b><br/>April 3–5, 2010 (Need volunteers)</p> |        |
| Recognitions                                  | Al Evans wants to recognize Ken Krieger for handling the notebook and CD production for the Science Teacher Workshops.  |        |
| Adjournment                                   | <p>7:45 p.m.</p> <p>Motion: Karen Blanchard</p> <p>Second: Doug Johnson</p>   |        |

## NRC Cites Wal-Mart for Violations in Handling Tritium Exit Signs

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-180.html>

**T**he Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has cited Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., with four violations concerning improper disposal and transfer of tritium exit signs at its stores throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The violations, issued Oct. 28, concerned the improper transfer or disposal of 2,462 signs from Wal-Mart stores in states under NRC jurisdiction between 2000 and 2008, and the improper transfer of an additional 517 signs between various Wal-Mart facilities. The company also failed to appoint an official responsible for complying with regulatory requirements and failed to report broken or damaged signs as required.

Exit signs containing tritium, a radioactive isotope

of hydrogen, pose little threat to public health and safety and do not constitute a security risk. However, the NRC requires proper record-keeping and disposal of the signs because a damaged or broken sign could cause minor radioactive contamination of the immediate vicinity, requiring environmental clean-up.

The improper transfer or disposal of the 2,979 signs and failure to appoint a responsible official were determined to be a Severity Level III problem under NRC's enforcement policy, and the failure to report damaged signs is a Severity Level IV violation, the lowest on the NRC's enforcement scale.

The Severity Level III problem could have incurred a civil penalty of \$369,300. However, the

NRC decided to exercise enforcement discretion and waive a civil penalty based on Wal-Mart's prompt, comprehensive, and extraordinary corrective and preventive actions. After it was discovered that there was a problem with accounting for its tritium exit signs, the company applied considerable resources to resolve the problems, including inventorying all tritium exit signs at its stores nationwide, remediating contamination from damaged signs at several stores, and subsequently removing all tritium exit signs in Wal-Mart facilities and replacing them with exit signs that do not contain radioactive material.

"Our inspection, and the extensive actions Wal-Mart had to undertake to resolve

our concerns, should stand as a warning to other organizations and corporations not to be lax in their handling of devices containing radioactive material," said Cynthia Carpenter, NRC's Director of Enforcement. "Because Wal-Mart realized it had problems and took significant and effective corrective actions, we believe it is appropriate not to impose a civil penalty in this case."

The NRC's special inspection of Wal-Mart was initiated in December 2008 and concluded in August. The inspection report is available in the NRC's ADAMS online document system at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> by entering Accession Number ML092380657 in the search window.



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MONEY

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STC Newsletter  
the E-WAY!  
UPDATE  
your contact  
information on  
the STC-HPS  
Web site.

## Computed Tomography (CT) Brain Perfusion Scan Overexposures

Pete Myers




**T**hursday, October 8, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an initial notification on a safety investigation of CT brain perfusion scans. The investigation was ordered when FDA became aware of 206 radiation overexposures at one particular facility during perfusion CT imaging to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of strokes. The overexposures were approximately eight times the expected level, and in some cases resulted in hair loss and erythema. The overexposures were determined to be due to a patient protocol being improperly adjusted. While this experience involved a single type of diagnostic test at a single facility, FDA is concerned that the occurrence may reflect more widespread problems with CT quality assurance programs. This occurrence notwithstanding, FDA believes that patients should follow their doctor's recommendations for receiving CT scans. FDA's notice is meant to

help ensure that this important information is received by the appropriate health-care professionals so CT quality assurance programs can be reinforced. For more information, please see FDA's Safety Investigation of CT Brain Perfusion Scans: Initial Notification at: <http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/AlertsandNotices/ucm185898.htm>

Tuesday, October 20, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) Board of Directors issued a Position Statement relating to: Computed Tomography Protocol Reviews [http://www.crcpd.org/Positions\\_Resolutions/Healing\\_Arts/HA27.pdf](http://www.crcpd.org/Positions_Resolutions/Healing_Arts/HA27.pdf). In the position statement CRCPD advises that "hospitals and CT facilities should review their CT protocols to ensure that their current protocols are appropriate to allow them to provide the best possible CT studies

while assuring they are keeping patient exposures as low as reasonably achievable." The position statement also provides specific guidance on items that should be reviewed and implemented, as applicable, by hospitals and other CT facilities to improve quality assurance and prevent overexposures in the use of CT imaging.

Information appearing in this article was provided by Ruth E. McBurney, MS, CHP, Executive Director, CRCPD; <http://www.crcpd.org>. Ruth has been a member of the Health Physics Society (HPS) since 1979, is an HPS Fellow, was HPS President 2005–2006, was HPS Secretary 1999–2001, was an HPS Director 1995–1998, and has been a member of STC-HPS since 1982, serving in many important STC-HPS positions, including President. Ruth has also served on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes. 

*Thank you, Ruth*

**TRAB's**  
*most recent meeting*  
was held from  
9:00 a.m. to  
12:00 p.m. on  
Saturday,  
November 7, 2009,  
at the  
Department of State  
Health Services  
(DSHS) Moreton  
Building in Austin.  
For details, visit:  
[www.stc-hps.org](http://www.stc-hps.org)

*As a courtesy to our membership, the STC-HPS offers a list of the Health Physics-related positions available in South Texas on our Web site.*

 [www.stc-hps.org/hpjob.htm](http://www.stc-hps.org/hpjob.htm)



# HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

*"Specialists in Radiation Safety"*

**RICHARD J. BURK, JR.,  
Executive Secretary**

1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard  
Suite 402

McLean, VA 22101

Telephone: (703) 790-1745

FAX: (703) 790-2672

E-Mail: [hps@BurkInc.com](mailto:hps@BurkInc.com)

<http://www.hps.org>

September 10, 2009

Dr. John W. Poston, Sr.  
Department of Nuclear Engineering  
Texas A & M University  
3133 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-3133

Dear Dr. Poston:

Enclosed please find the first installment of the 2009-2010 Robert Gardner Fellowship Award for graduate students in Health Physics in the amount of \$2,500 for your student David Wagoner. This award, which is jointly sponsored by the Gardner Fund, is intended to be utilized toward tuition and direct course expenses.

We wish David well for the Fall Semester. We will check again with you later this year regarding David's progress prior to dispatch of installment #2 early next year.

Please do convey our congratulations to David and at the same time our congratulations to you for the successful sponsorship.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Burk, Jr.  
Executive Secretary

RJB

cc: David R. Simpson, Chair, AEC  
David Wagoner  
Executive Committee

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER *of the* HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.

# Proton Therapy Meeting & Tour of the MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center

*& Special Address by  
Edward F. Maher, National HPS President-Elect*

**Saturday, January 9, 2010  
Houston, Texas**

*4.5 CEUs  
Awarded  
for LMPs  
& MRTs*

**E**ver wonder what **proton therapy** is and what is involved? With only a total of five proton therapy centers in the world, most of us do not get too involved with it. It just so happens that the MD Anderson Proton

off the meeting, there will be a planned tour of the world-famous MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center. The lunch buffet will consist of:

- Mixed Field Green Salad with Honey Balsamic Peppercorn Vinaigrette
- Penne Pasta served with Kalamata Olives
- Spinach and Lemon with Crumbled Feta Cheese
- Roasted Bone-In Chicken Breast served with Garlic Spinach
- Atlantic Salmon
- Roasted Seasonal Vegetables
- Warm Rolls and Butter
- Chef's Selection of Assorted Desserts
- Freshly Brewed Starbucks® Coffee Service
- Ice Tea

A block of 30 rooms has been reserved for Friday night at the Sheraton® Suites Houston Near The Galleria®, and 15 rooms have been reserved for Saturday night. For reserva-

tions, phone: **1-713-586-2444**. The nightly rate is \$118 plus tax for single-, double-, triple-, and quad-occupancy rooms and the reservation deadline is December 17, 2009. The reservations are being held under the name of "**South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society.**"

Surrounded by the glamour of uptown Houston, the Sheraton Suites Houston Near The Galleria is ready to greet you with a pleasant and comfortable stay. The full-service, all-suite hotel puts you near the excitement at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Reliant Park, Minute Maid Park, Toyota Center, Museum District, downtown Houston, and the world-renowned Texas Medical Center. An additional highlight will be spending the day browsing the Houston Galleria Mall's extravagant shops and day spas, just two blocks away. 

*It just so happens that the MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center is located in the middle of the South Texas Chapter in Houston!*

STC Meeting  
pre-registration deadline  
is December 30, 2009

Hotel registration deadline  
is December 17, 2009

Therapy Center is located in the middle of the South Texas Chapter in Houston! We have some exciting talks planned with a special address from the President-Elect of the National Health Physics Society.

The luncheon will take place from 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m., followed by Edward F. Maher, National HPS President-Elect, speaking. To top

## Executive Council Meeting & Proton Therapy Meeting & Tour

### Agenda

January 8–9, 2010

Sheraton® Suites Houston Near The Galleria® • 2400 West Loop South  
Houston, Texas 77027-4204 • Phone: 713-586-2444

#### Friday, January 8, 2010

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|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 5:00–7:00 p.m. | <b>Executive Council Meeting:</b> Sheraton Suites Houston Near The Galleria |
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#### Saturday, January 9, 2010

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|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8:00–8:30 a.m. | <b>Registration:</b> Sheraton Suites Houston Near The Galleria |
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|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8:30–8:40 a.m. | <b>Welcoming Remarks and Introductions:</b> Stan Bravenec, STC-HPS President |
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|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8:40–9:00 a.m. | <b>STC Business Briefing:</b> Stan Bravenec, STC President |
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|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 9:00–10:00 a.m. | <b>Proton Therapy Talks</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|

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|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 10:00–10:30 a.m. | <b>Break / Professional Networking:</b> Freshly Brewed Coffee, Assorted Sodas, and Chocolate Chip Cookies |
|------------------|---|

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|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10:30–12:00 p.m. | <b>Proton Therapy Talks</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|

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|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 12:00–1:00 p.m. | <b>Lunch Buffet</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------|

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|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1:00–2:00 p.m. | <b>Guest Speaker:</b> Edward F. Maher, President-Elect, National Health Physics Society |
|----------------|---|

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|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2:00–2:30 p.m. | <b>Travel:</b> MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center |
|----------------|--|

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|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2:30–4:30 p.m. | <b>Tour:</b> MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center |
|----------------|--|

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|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 4:30 p.m. | <b>Adjourn</b> |
|-----------|----------------|

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EMAIL ALERT! Not getting your email messages from the STC or  
your email has changed or is changing?

NOTIFY Stan Bravenec AT [josephs.braveneciii@med.va.gov](mailto:josephs.braveneciii@med.va.gov)

## Proton Therapy Meeting & Tour Registration

January 9, 2010

Sheraton® Suites Houston Near The Galleria® • 2400 West Loop South  
Houston, Texas 77027-4204 • Phone: 713-586-2444

STC Meeting pre-registration deadline is December 30, 2009 • Hotel registration deadline is December 17, 2009

**Registration form (Please complete a registration form for each member or guest attending the meeting.)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Company name \_\_\_\_\_

- STC member pre-registration fee (technical sessions and lunch) = \$55
- STC member pre-registration fee (technical sessions ONLY) = \$30
- NON-STC member pre-registration fee (technical sessions and lunch) = \$65\*
- NON-STC member pre-registration fee (technical sessions ONLY) = \$40\*
- NON-STC member (e.g., spouse/guest) pre-registration fee (lunch ONLY) = \$30\*  
*\* Non-STC members are welcome to apply for STC-HPS membership at the meeting and enjoying privileges of membership at future Chapter events.*
- Student (technical sessions and lunch) = \$10
- Registration** by mail after **December 30, 2009\*\*** or on site, pending space and/or lunch availability = please add \$10 to the applicable fee above.  
*\*\* Meeting space is limited. If contemplating attendance and the purchase of on-site meals, space and meal availability cannot be guaranteed on the day of the meeting.*
- Need a receipt for this meeting
- Need CEU certificate

### How to pre-register before December 30, 2009

Please complete the **registration form** and mail the form along with check or money order (payable to STC-HPS) to arrive before December 30, 2009, to: STC-HPS Treasurer • David Fogle • PO Box 201723 • Austin, TX 78720-1723

**To pay by major credit card** (VISA®/MasterCard®/American Express®/Discover®), transmit your credit card number, expiration date, and payment authorization to the STC-HPS treasurer to arrive before December 30, 2009, using one of the following methods:

- Email it to David.Fogle@dshs.state.tx.us
- Telephone it to David Fogle at 512-834-6688 x2203
- Include it on the meeting registration form (below)

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### How to register after December 30, 2009

You may register after December 30, 2009 and up to the morning of the event, space permitting. Please complete the **registration form** and bring the form, with payment, to the meeting.

### Refund policy

Pre-registration closes December 30, 2009. If you pre-register but cannot attend, please call 512-834-6688 x2203 and cancel your reservation **PRIOR TO DECEMBER 30, 2009** to receive a full refund. Any reservation not cancelled by December 30, 2009 will be regarded as a confirmed reservation and no refund will be given. **Registration fees collected after December 30, 2009 or at the door, space permitting, will be \$10 extra.**

# Proton Therapy Meeting & Tour

## Directions

### To the Hotel

Sheraton® Suites Houston Near The Galleria® • 2400 West Loop South  
Houston, Texas 77027-4204 • Phone: 713-586-2444

Reservations are under the name of "South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society."

#### From Galveston

- Take Interstate 45 North to U.S. 58 South.
- Then take Loop 610 North and exit at San Felipe.
- Make a U-turn under Loop 610 prior to San Felipe.
- Proceed south on the feeder road, and the hotel is after San Felipe and before Westheimer Road.

#### From San Antonio

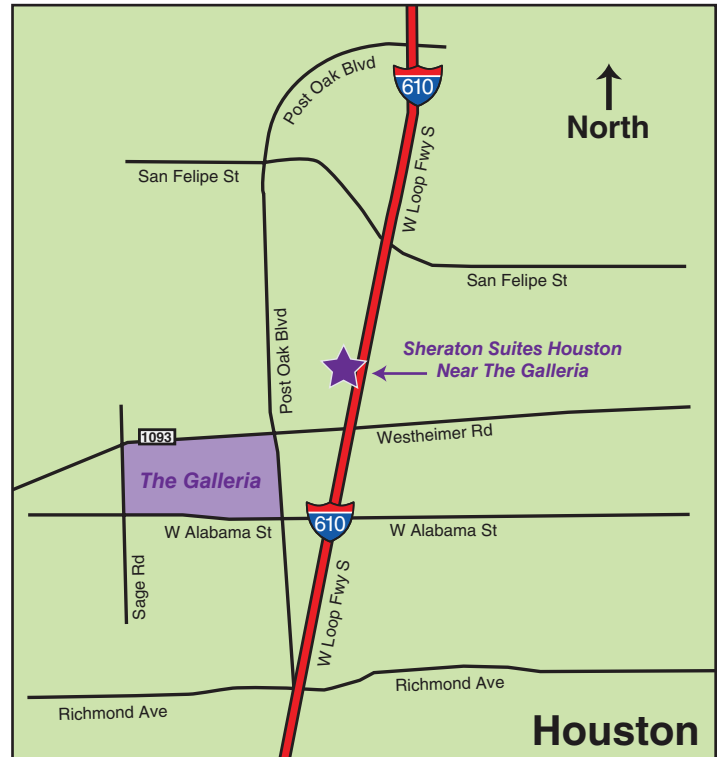
- Take Interstate 10 East to Loop 610 South and exit at San Felipe Road, Exit 8C.
- Stay on the feeder road and pass San Felipe.
- The hotel is on the right before Westheimer.

#### From Austin

- Take Interstate 290 to Loop 610 South and exit at San Felipe Road, Exit 8C.
- Stay on the feeder road and pass San Felipe.
- The hotel is on the right before Westheimer.

#### From George Bush Intercontinental Airport

- Take Sam Houston Parkway 8 West to Interstate 45 South.
- Then take Loop 610 West to Loop 610 South and exit at San Felipe Road, Exit 8C.
- Stay on the feeder road and pass San Felipe.
- The hotel is on the right before Westheimer.



### From the Hotel to the Tour

January 9, 2010

MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center  
1840 Old Spanish Trail • Houston, Texas

- Take Loop 610 South (take a right on to the loop from the hotel).
- Exit Fannin and turn left on Fannin.
- Go past Reliant Stadium and stay to the right when the road forks.
- Take a right on Old Spanish Trail.
- Proton Therapy Center is on the right after about ½ block.



## Proton Therapy Meeting & Tour Accommodations

January 9, 2010

Sheraton® Suites Houston Near The Galleria® • 2400 West Loop South  
Houston, Texas 77027-4204 • Phone: 713-586-2444

Reservations are under the name of "South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society."

**The Sheraton Suites Houston Near The Galleria** is ready to greet you with a pleasant and comfortable stay. Spend the day browsing The Galleria Mall's extravagant shops and day spas, just two blocks away. Afterwards, share in some delightful food and conversation in the restaurant or lounge.

Extra touches — ergonomic chairs, complimentary local, 800 and domestic long-distance calls, and comfort items such as plush robes and slippers — make the deluxe suites even more comfortable. Along with the beautiful guest suites, the following guest services are offered:

- Complimentary high-speed, wireless Internet access in all guest suites
- Brand new onsite Omaha SteakHouse®
- Concierge at your service, arranging dinner reservations in Omaha SteakHouse, or in one of over 8,000 Houston area restaurants
- Business Center open 24 hours a day with computer access, printing, faxing, photocopying and overnight shipping available

- Outdoor swimming pool with hot tub
- Complimentary transportation within a 3-mile radius of the hotel (upon availability)
- Complimentary use of the fully-equipped fitness center
- Lobby gift shop
- Personalized wake-up calls
- Secure safe deposit boxes
- Prompt, personalized, and friendly room service
- Laundry and dry cleaning services available Monday–Saturday
- Full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

### Parking

- Day parking (self): \$4.00
- Overnight covered parking (self): \$7.00
- Overnight covered parking (valet): \$23.00

The SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER of the HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.  
welcomes our



## NEW MEMBERS



Joseph Avila  
*Shell Global Solutions*

Michael Butkus  
*TAMU*

Gary Chen  
*TAMU*

Brittany Farley  
*TSTC*

Eric Hammond  
*Champion  
Technologies*

James Judge  
*INEOS USA, LLC*

J. Scott Kirk, CHP  
*Waste Control  
Specialists*

Scott Lehr  
*Champion  
Technologies*

Dennis Machajewski  
*Lexicon  
Pharmaceuticals*

Doretta Olsen  
*USAF Wilford Hall  
Medical Center*

William Pate  
*UTHSC at  
San Antonio*

Paula Reed  
*Kell West Regional  
Hospital*

Chloe Roberts  
*STC Science Fair  
Winner*

David Samaniego  
*Austin  
Community College*

Charles  
Williams, CHP  
*U.S. Army Medical  
Department Center  
& School*

Wesley Williams  
*HPS Student  
Science Awardee*

We wish them well in all their endeavors and especially hope that their association with the South Texas Chapter will be long and mutually rewarding!!!



# NRC Requests Organizations to Report on Tritium Exit Signs in their Possession

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-011.html>

**T**he Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has requested 61 organizations to check tritium exit signs in their possession against their records and to report any lost or missing signs to the agency.

The NRC's action follows an inspection of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., conducted in December and discussed in a meeting with Wal-Mart officials this week. A year-long audit by Wal-Mart identified approximately 15,000 tritium exit signs lost, missing, or otherwise unaccounted for at its stores and warehouses nationwide. Wal-Mart, which kept the NRC informed of its audit, expects to submit a formal report to the agency in late January.

Tritium exit signs pose little or no threat to public health and safety and do not constitute a security risk. However, the NRC requires proper recordkeeping and disposal of all radioactive materials. Proper handling and recordkeeping are important, because a damaged or broken sign could cause minor radioactive contamination of the immediate vicinity, requiring a potentially expensive clean up.

“Wal-Mart's inability to account for all the tritium

*continued on page 19*

# People

Ken Krieger

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  |    | 2  | 3  |    | 4  | 5  |    | 6  | 7  | 8  |    |
|    |    | 9  |    | 10 |    |    |    | 11 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 12 |    |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |
| 15 | 16 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |
| 18 |    | 19 |    |    | 20 | 21 |    | 22 | 23 |    |    |
| 24 |    |    |    | 25 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 26 |    |    |    |    |    | 27 |    |    | 28 | 29 |    |
| 30 |    |    |    | 31 | 32 |    |    | 33 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 34 | 35 |    |    |    |    | 36 |    |    |    |
| 37 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 38 |    |    |    |

## Across

- Smallest part of an element or molecule
- Only person to have an element named for them while still alive
- Pointed toward the target
- Internal Use Only
- Prefix meaning 10<sup>12</sup>
- Group whose beliefs may be different than mainstream ideas
- Mt. Rushmore St.
- Garden tool
- The Volunteer St.
- Shiny metal
- Led the Manhattan project
- USA sprinter \_\_\_\_\_ Edwards
- DOE and NRC in the early days
- Enemy
- Rank before Cpt.
- What theoretical physicists are looking for, viscera
- Talked a lot with Einstein
- Industrial safety watchdog
- TIME's person of the century
- Big productions over nothing

## Down

- When Greek philosopher runs into Grant's foe
- Horse food bit
- Helped figure out fission
- Look for
- Talking horse (with 10 down)
- Much sought after hydrocarbon
- Did experiments with gold foil
- Leave
- See 5 down
- Couple who discovered Ra and Po
- The H-bomb was his "son"
- Military storage space
- National Public Radio
- What fire produces
- Name of Auckland, New Zealand band who sang "How Bizarre"
- Personal pronoun
- Post sunset
- Response to bad news
- Country in the mid-east (abbr.)
- Sheep's bleat
- Preposition
- Super Sonic

Answers found on page 18.



The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has two **Health Physicist II** openings with our Homeland Security Program. These openings are related to the planned, low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities in Andrews County, Texas. More information is available at: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/admin/jobs/docs/10009.pdf>

# Thank You from Shawn Shepel

**D**

Dear Mr. John Salsman,

I am writing to thank you for your generous donation to the Neff-Poston HPS Scholarship at Texas A&M University. The scholarship was awarded this fall, and will help fund my education at Texas A&M for the remainder of the year. I cannot express how grateful I am to be the recipient of this academic award, and be assured that the scholarship funds received will go a long way in funding my continuing education in the Nuclear Engineering Department.

This fall I am entering my final year as a Radiological Health Engineer. I have attended Texas A&M for four years, originally majoring in Nuclear Engineering before taking interest in Health Physics. Despite being in my final year, I am still evaluating my future career. Originally planning to pursue a profession in Medical Physics, I have recently taken interest in continuing my education at medical school. My hopes are to pursue a career centered around

nuclear medicine, radiation/diagnostic imaging, or possibly research.

At Texas A&M, I have tried my best to do well in the classroom and still stay involved in the school socially. As a freshman, I was invited to walk on to the men's basketball team and will be entering my final season this year. I am a member of both the Health Physics Society and the American Nuclear Society chapters at Texas A&M. Most importantly, I still manage to enjoy time with friends and family. My time here has been a very rewarding experience, and none of it would have been possible without the support from you.

Again I wish to thank you for your generous donation. Your support has blessed me with the opportunity to get the most out of my educational and college experience. 🇺🇸

Sincerely, Shawn Shepel, October 1, 2009

Go to [www.stc-hps.org/billet.htm](http://www.stc-hps.org/billet.htm) to view this newsletter IN COLOR!

To be among the first to know when *The Billet STC Newsletter* is online, log on to the Membership Directory in the Members Only section of the STC-HPS Web site. Not only will you be among the first, you'll also save the cost of printing and postage.

## Renaming The Billet Reminder

In a possible attempt to rename *The Billet*, the newsletter of the STC, I want to invite more comments and suggestions. Please send them to me at [jph@swri.org](mailto:jph@swri.org). After the suggestions are collected, I will list all the suggestions, including keeping the current name, and the membership will then vote on what they want to call the newsletter of the STC. 🇺🇸

Thanks, John P. Hageman

## Answers to People

Ken Krieger

|         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1<br>A  | T       | 2<br>O  | 3<br>M  |         | 4<br>S  | 5<br>E  | A       | B       | 6<br>O  | 7<br>R  | 8<br>G  |         |
| R       |         | 9<br>A  | I       | 10<br>M | E       | D       |         |         | 11<br>I | U       | O       |         |
| I       |         | 12<br>T | E       | R       | A       |         | 13<br>C | U       | L       | T       |         | 14<br>T |
| 15<br>S | 16<br>D |         | T       |         | R       |         | U       |         |         | 17<br>H | O       | E       |
| 18<br>T | E       | 19<br>N | N       |         | 20<br>C | 21<br>H | R       | 22<br>O | 23<br>M | E       |         | L       |
| 24<br>O | P       | P       | E       | 25<br>N | H       | E       | I       | M       | E       | R       |         | L       |
| 26<br>T | O       | R       | R       | I       |         | 27<br>A | E       | C       |         | 28<br>F | 29<br>O | E       |
| 30<br>L | T       |         |         | 31<br>G | 32<br>U | T       | S       |         | 33<br>B | O       | H       | R       |
| E       |         | 34<br>O | 35<br>S | H       | A       |         |         | 36<br>B | A       | R       | N       |         |
| 37<br>E | I       | N       | S       | T       | E       | I       | N       |         | 38<br>A | D       | O       | S       |

# South Texas Chapter at Texas Science Teacher Convention

Al Evans

**M**embers of the South Texas Chapter manned an exhibit booth and conducted an eight-hour Science Teachers' Workshop (STW) during the CAST-9 Convention of the Science Teachers Association of Texas, held on November 5-7 at the Moody Gardens Convention Center in Galveston. About 6,000 teachers attended the convention.

Over 500 brochures were distributed to the exhibit booth visitors and thirty people signed up for more information. The booth was ably manned by Jim and Sharon Sharp, who were assisted by Al Evans and Sam Daniel.

Nine students attended the STW, which took place at the Holiday Inn and was conducted by Al Evans; Ken Krieger; John Poston, Sr.; and Sam Daniel.



John Poston Sr.



Ken Krieger



Sam Daniel

Sam Daniel and Jim Sharp



*NRC continued from page 17*

exit signs the company purchased demonstrates that organizations may not be fully aware of the regulatory requirements for owning these signs," said George Pangburn, deputy director of the NRC's Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs. "The NRC wants to be certain that organizations are aware of their responsibility to properly account for tritium exit signs in their possession and to dispose of them properly at the end of their useful life."

In a "demand for information" issued today, the NRC asked organizations possessing 500 or more tritium exit signs to report in writing to the NRC within 60 days the following information:

- An explanation of how the organization ensures compliance with regulatory requirements applying to the possession, transfer and disposal of tritium exit signs the organization has acquired
- A confirmation of the total number of signs possessed, and whether this matches the number in the organization's records
- The reasons for any discrepancies, and actions taken or planned to locate any missing signs
- Actions taken or planned to prevent future losses

The organizations receiving the demand for information were identified through the NRC's General License Tracking System, which contains information filed by device manufacturers regarding initial distribution of the signs. The

*continued on page 23*

Our student programs are funded by our Affiliates!

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER *of the* HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.

## Member Renewal/Application

Form available online at [www.stc-hps.org](http://www.stc-hps.org)

Please print – Information is used for mailing labels and directory listing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Middle or Initial-Optional Last) (PhD, MS, CHP, NRRPT, etc.)

RENEWALS: Check and update your CONTACT information in the STC online directory at [www.hpschapters.org/stc/login.php3](http://www.hpschapters.org/stc/login.php3). Then submit this form with just your name, payment, and other choices below and sign here: \_\_\_\_\_  
New members, please complete the entire form.

Business name \_\_\_\_\_ Business dept. \_\_\_\_\_  
Provide business name and check if address given is  Bus. or  Home

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt./PO Box# \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  Omit address from Directory

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Type of phone  Bus.  Home  Mobile  Omit from Directory

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Type of fax  Bus.  Home  Omit from Directory

Email \_\_\_\_\_  Omit from Directory

Alternate Email \_\_\_\_\_ Not for Directory, only to be used by STC if primary email fails

- Yes, I am a National HPS member.  I only want **The Billet STC Newsletter electronically**  
 Yes, I am a certified health physicist. *THIS INFORMATION CAN BE UPDATED ONLINE*  
 Yes, I am a registered radiation protection technologist.  
 Other

Please check the STC-HPS committee(s) on which you would like to actively serve.

- Nominating  Meeting Program  Admissions (Membership)  Publications  
 Legislation  Public Relations  Affiliate  Other/Ad Hoc  
 Student Assistance  Science Teacher Workshop

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

STC-HPS dues for the year:

|   |                       |            |
|---|-----------------------|------------|
| Regular membership:                                 | \$10/yr × _____ Years | = \$ _____ |
| Student membership:                                 | \$ 5/yr × _____ Years | = \$ _____ |
| Student Scholarship Fund Donation (tax deductible)  |                       | = \$ _____ |
| Science Teachers Workshop Donation (tax deductible) |                       | = \$ _____ |
| Total Enclosed                                      |                       | = \$ _____ |

Please complete and mail this form with your check or money order (payable to STC-HPS) to:

STC-HPS Treasurer • David Fogle • PO Box 201723 • Austin, TX 78720-1723

To pay by major credit card (VISA®/MasterCard®/American Express®/Discover®), transmit your credit card number, expiration date, and payment authorization to the STC-HPS treasurer, using one of the following methods:

- Email it to [David.Fogle@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:David.Fogle@dshs.state.tx.us)  
 Telephone it to David Fogle at 512-834-6688 x2203  
 Include it on the Member Renewal/Application form (below)

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER *of the* HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.

## Affiliate Renewal/Application

Form available online at [www.stc-hps.org](http://www.stc-hps.org)

### Affiliate contact person (*one free individual membership*)

Please print – Information is used for mailing labels and directory listing, and will appear in the STC Newsletter and on the chapter Web site at [www.stc-hps.org](http://www.stc-hps.org)

Company name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person's name \_\_\_\_\_

Company mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Company Web site \_\_\_\_\_

### Alternate contact person (*optional*)

Company name \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate contact person's name \_\_\_\_\_

Company mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership & dues information

Chapter President Stan Bravenec extends a personal invitation to you to become (or remain) a chapter Affiliate and participate in the Annual Affiliates Fair as well as all activities of the chapter throughout the year.

Affiliate membership includes an advertisement in the STC-HPS Membership Directory, exhibit space at the Affiliates Fair, one individual chapter membership, a company Web site link from the STC-HPS Web site, and a listing on the Affiliate Membership Roster printed in all issues of *The Billet STC Newsletter* (an STC-HPS quarterly newsletter).

### **Affiliate Annual Membership Dues \$150.00**

Please complete and mail this form with your check or money order (payable to STC-HPS) to:

STC-HPS Treasurer • David Fogle • PO Box 201723 • Austin, TX 78720-1723

To pay by major credit card (VISA®/MasterCard®/American Express®/Discover®), transmit your credit card number, expiration date, and payment authorization to the STC-HPS treasurer, using one of the following methods:

- Email it to [David.Fogle@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:David.Fogle@dshs.state.tx.us)
- Telephone it to David Fogle at 512-834-6688 x2203
- Include it on the Affiliate Renewal/Application form (below)

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact information for Affiliate-related questions, comments, or address corrections

STC-HPS Affiliates Committee Chair • Andrew Pitts • Alpha Neutronics, Inc. • 11534 Trickey Road • Houston, TX 77067-3406 • E: [admin@alphaneutronics.com](mailto:admin@alphaneutronics.com) • T: 281-872-0075

## SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER *of the* HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.

# T

**The Affiliates of the South Texas Chapter (STC) are 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.

*Affiliates: Please review your listing below and email any corrections to [admin@alphaneutronics.com](mailto:admin@alphaneutronics.com)*

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*Your Chapter is getting stronger through  
the contributions of your Affiliate Members!  
When you need services,  
call your STC Affiliates first!*

.....  
**NRC** continued from page 19


organizations include large retail store chains, churches, federal and state agencies, school districts, and universities, among others.

The signs are considered “generally licensed devices,” because they are inherently safe enough to be handled or used by anyone with no radiation training or experience. Although purchasers—known as “general licensees”—do not need authorization from the NRC or a state regulatory

agency to possess the signs, they are subject to certain regulatory requirements regarding handling, transfer or disposal of the signs. They are also subject to NRC or state inspection and enforcement action (including fines) for violating those requirements.

From 2001 through 2007, Wal-Mart purchased approximately 70,000 tritium exit signs to install in its stores and warehouses. Last year, after discovering some signs

were missing, the company initiated an audit of all its facilities. The NRC and its Agreement States (the 35 states that regulate radioactive materials under agreements with the NRC) have been kept informed of Wal-Mart’s progress in its audit. The company is now in the final stages of removing tritium exit signs from its facilities and returning them to the manufacturers in accordance with NRC regulations for proper disposal.

The NRC reminded manufacturers and general licensees of the regulatory requirements for tritium exit signs in a Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS 2006-25) issued in December 2006. The requirements are also spelled out in NUREG-1556, Consolidated Guidance for Materials Licensees, Volume 16, Appendix L. More recently, the NRC posted a Fact Sheet on tritium exit signs on its Web site. 



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Check [www.stc-hps.org](http://www.stc-hps.org) for a color copy of *The Billet STC Newsletter*.

## **FUTURE** *Meetings & Deadlines*

| Date   | Location            | Topic  | Newsletter Deadline |
|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| January 8–9, 2010                                | Houston, TX         | Technical Meeting & Grand Tour of MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center  | November 5, 2009    |
| January 24–27, 2010                              | Albuquerque, NM     | National HPS 2010 Midyear Meeting                                    | NA                  |
| April 9–10, 2010                                 | College Station, TX | Student Presentations & Annual Business Meeting                      | February 6, 2010    |
| June 27–July 2, 2010<br>June 29, 2010, 7:30 a.m. | Salt Lake City, UT  | National HPS 55 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting<br>Annual STC Breakfast | NA                  |
| September 1–3, 2010                              | Austin, TX          | Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference                                | June 24, 2010       |
| January 2011                                     | TBD                 | LLRW Waste Site (Tentative)  | November 5, 2010    |
| April 2011                                       | Waco, TX            | Student Presentations & Annual Business Meeting                      | February 4, 2011    |
| February 6–9, 2011                               | Charleston, SC      | 2011 Midyear   | NA                  |
| Summer 2011                                      | TBD                 | National HPS 56 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting                         | NA                  |