

# NCHPS

Spring 2009

The North Carolina Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NCHPS) is a professional organization dedicated to the development, dissemination and application of the scientific knowledge of and practical means for radiation protection.

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## Message From The President By Amy Orders



In my first job, my boss aptly said, "Hang on tight, it's a wild ride!" After two years serving as Chapter President elect and President, I have had a wonderful ride and quietly step back as Past President as new leadership moves forward.

In retrospect, when I conferred the past president plaque to Ritchie Buschow at the Spring Chapter meeting in New Bern, it was a joyous moment to reiterate all the wonderful things the chapter has completed or accomplished in the past two years. To recollect:

- National Outstanding Science Teacher Award
- NCHPS Chapter member on the HPS Board of Directors
- Chapter representation/sponsorship to IAEA meetings
- Chapter representation on HPS national committees
- Chapter meetings with tremendous membership participation
- Record vendor participation
- New geographic event venues in the state, incorporating more neighboring states
- Diverse array of speakers, both local and national
- Record student par-

ticipation in high school and college research paper competitions

This list is far from complete in demonstrating all the successes our chapter has had and hopes to continue in the future.

Over the course of 2008-2009, our chapter sponsored two highly successful meetings and PEP courses hosted by President-Elect Laura Pring, drawing record crowds and vendors. The spring meeting College Student Paper competition lauded a tie from voting members, allowing both presenters-Sangroh Kim and Maryann Abogunde from Duke University, the opportunity to present at the National meeting and receive chapter reimbursement for some of their costs. The high school student paper competition received over fifty entries, with the winner, Sin Ki, from Freedom High School, with Mrs. Martha Buchanan as the sponsoring science teacher.

The array of speakers for the spring meeting covered a myriad of health physics topics, bringing topics of interest to all types of HP professionals. Our dinner speaker was Dr. Dade Moeller, whose experience and life's tale is truly fascinating to hear. It is the hope of the chapter to have the video of his dinner presentation available for others to hear soon.

With tough economic pressures we all face, the North

Carolina Chapter must think creatively and swiftly to continue to meet the needs of the chapter goals and membership, as well as expectations from the National Health Physics Society. The executive council would appreciate your input on a variety of topics, including meeting locations, PEP course topics, speaker nominations, newsletter articles, communications (snail mail versus email) and webpage updates. As members, your input is vital to our chapter growth. Additionally, your involvement is key to various chapter activities and committees. A number of committees exist that we welcome your participation, including the Student Paper Competition, the Science Teacher Workshop, the Chapter Newsletter, the Program Committee and others.

Our chapter continues to thrive with a large constituency and active role in the national society. My deepest gratitude to the Executive Council for their hard work and dedication as volunteers to the chapter; to Ritchie Buschow for leading the way as my predecessor; to the various program committees under different President elects, who diligently worked and achieved highly successful and fun meetings and to the members of the chapter who participate in our meetings and chapter activities repetitively.



## In Memoriam James E. Watson, Jr., Ph.D., CHP

Dr. Jim Watson, a distinguished professor, mentor and friend to many in the North Carolina Chapter of the Health Physics Society and in the National Health Physics Society, passed away at his residence on April 2, 2009 after battling cancer for the past several years.

Dr. Watson was a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering (ESE) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Public Health, from 1974 through 2003. He led the former Radiological Hygiene Program for many of those years, and in fact he WAS the radiological hygiene program in the latter part of his career. Dr. Watson was highly respected both professionally and personally. He received his undergraduate degree in nuclear engineering and an MS in Physics from N.C. State University, then obtained his PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The quality of his teaching and academic career was reflected in the awards he received, which included the Greenberg Alumni Endowment Award and the McGavran Award from the School of Public Health, as well as the Newton Underwood Award for Excellence in teaching from ESE.

He served terms as President of both the North Carolina Chapter and the National Health Physics Society, Chair of the Radiological Health Section of the American Public Health Association, Chair of the US EPA Radiation Advisory Committee, and on several National Academy of Sciences committees. Professor Watson also served on the North Carolina Radiation Protection Commission for 24 years. He was also considered by many to be the expert on Radon in the Environment, particularly for his work in North Carolina. For his dedicated service to the State he was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian honor in North Carolina.

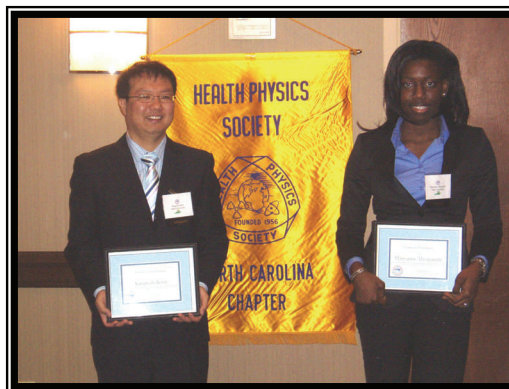
Once an avid gamesman and hunter, in his later years, his camera became his equipment of choice. He loved the outdoors and adorned his office and home with pictures and prints of scenic landscapes.

Dr. Jim Watson's professional stature was belied by his gentle demeanor and the kindness with which he approached everyone around him. In fact, he epitomized the meaning of the term "southern gentleman." His quiet wisdom will be missed by many. Jim is survived by his wife, Betty Revsin Watson.

### Tie for NCHPS Student Paper Competition

Maryann Aboundge and Sangroh Kim, of Duke University, presented their research papers during the Spring Meeting. Maryann's presentation centered on "Small Animal Dosimetry: Dose Comparison Between AAPM TG61 and MOSFET Phantom Based Dosimetry". Sangroh's presentation was titled: "A Monte Carlo Dose Estimation Method Using Voxalized Phantom for Pediatric CBCT".

Maryann is graduating from Duke with a MS degree in Medical Physics and will be starting a job with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Sangroh Kim is continuing at Duke towards his PhD in Medical Physics.



**Congratulations to Maryann and Sangroh!**

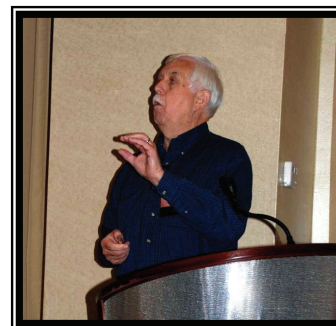
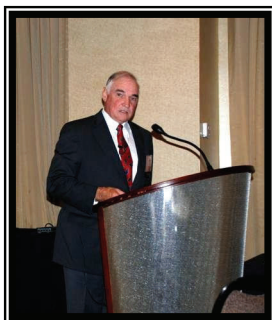
## North Carolina Chapter Fall Meeting Review by President-Elect Laura Pring

On November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Charlotte, NC, the North Carolina Chapter of the Health Physics Society held its 2008 Fall Meeting. Fourteen speakers from across the nation and local members as well gave presentations on a variety of current health physics topics. The meeting agenda was developed to reach out to North Carolina health physicists and radiation safety professionals across all disciplines. Presentations focused upon health physics education, nuclear power, medical, industrial, university, environmental and homeland security issues. Howard Dickson, HPS President-elect, was the keynote speaker. His presentation was titled "Will they ever Learn? The Public Education Game." Other presentations included: Dr. John Till, "RACER: An, Integrated Approach to Risk Analysis and Decision Making;" Chris Martel, "Alternate Method for I-131 Therapy Release Criteria;" Jay Tarzia, "Neutron Characterization after Primary PWR System Upgrades;" William Rhodes, "Homeland Security for Health Physicists;" Dale Holden, "Update on Tritium Issues at Nuclear Power Plants;" Larry Haynes, "Duke Energy Managing Industrial Radiography Operations;" Alan Mabry, "Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal: The Perspective of the NC Radiation Protection Commission;" Matt Norton,



"Radiological Fires- Lessons Learned;" Beth Franklin, "Recent Experiences with I-125 Seeds;" Jon Granger, "NC X-ray Rules Update;" Ben Edwards, "Recent and Upcoming Changes to ANZI Z136 Series of Standards for Safe Use of Lasers;" Dr. Perry Sprawls, "CT Image Quality and Dose Optimization;" and John Thrasher, "Nuclear Power Renaissance, Including an Overview of Lee Nuclear Station." There were over 100 attendees including 23 health physics and radiation protection students setting a new attendance record. A professional development course taught by Andrew Woodward of UNC-

Chapel School of Medicine on the "Fundamentals Digital Radiography" was also informative and well received by all. During the traditional dinner event, Dr. Perry Sprawls of Emory University School of Medicine enlightened us with his historical account of "The Early Days of X-ray in North Carolina and the Davidson College Experience." Brian Whitson of Salisbury, NC, this year's National HPS Outstanding Science Teacher Award recipient, was honored by the chapter for his achievement and was presented "The Golden Survey Meter Award", a.k.a. a gold-decorated civil defense survey meter.



Meeting presentations and photos can be found on the NCHPS chapter site [www.nchps.org](http://www.nchps.org) under Fall 2008 Meeting.

## **National HPS Program Committee Update** **from President-Elect Laura Pring**

Since 2007, I have been very fortunate to be a part of the Health Physics Society Program Committee. This is probably one of the hardest working HPS committees but, in my opinion, one of the most rewarding. Kevin Nelson, HPS Past-President, visited our chapter meeting in the fall of 2006 and he encouraged our members to volunteer at the national level. At that time, I had been active on the NCHPS Program Committee and jumped at the chance to work at the national level.

The basic mission of the HPS Program Committee is to plan, put together, and coordinate the technical program for the annual and mid-year meetings. The planning process for each meeting takes months of preparation. Much of the preparation is done through emails between HPS members, HPS leaders, and the HPS Secretariat. The Program Committee members look forward to the February planning meeting which takes place at the annual meeting site each year. At this meeting, the program task force performs a final abstract critique to evaluate for technical content and also ensures that all submissions fit into appropriate categories. Once the review process is complete, the meeting space is toured and final room assignments for each session are completed.

For each of the annual and mid-year meetings, the Program Chair appoints a Task Force Chair. This year, I have been appointed as the annual Task Force Chair for Minneapolis. One of the main duties of the Task Force Chair is the coordination of the technical program including the special sessions. The Program Task Force Chair works with the HPS Secretariat, HPS section leaders, Society members, and Program Committee members to plan, organize, and design a successful technical program. This is only a small portion of the Program Committee duties. At the actual meeting, the committee staffs the "speaker ready room" to ensure all presentations are uploaded and ready for each session. The Task Force chair is responsible for overseeing the "speaker ready room" tasks, working with the committee members, HPS Secretariat and audiovisual staff. The Program Committee effectively communicates and works as a team to make certain that the program runs smoothly.

Complimentary meeting registration is available for Program Committee members as a gesture of thanks for the huge commitment that this committee requires. There are other perks to serving on the Health Physics Society Program Committee such as random chances to meet many leading Health Physicists, but in reality it's the professional friendships that you form by working with a great group of people that make being a member of the HPS Program Committee a very rewarding experience.

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### **Welcome New Chapter Members!**

Dawn Burke, NCENR Radiation Compliance Branch  
Jackson R. Ellis, Dade Moeller & Associates  
Tom Hansen, Ameriphysics, LLC  
Bonnie Kanoy, N.C. DENR-Rad. Protection  
Kyle Maloy, General Electric  
Farideh Sehat, Carolinas Medical Center  
Ralph E. Shuping, Retired-Consultant  
Andrew Sowder, EPRI



## NCHPS Elects New Board Members for 2009-2010



**PRESIDENT ELECT- Bill Byrum**  
Bill is employed with Duke Energy and is a long standing North Carolina Chapter of the Health Physics Society chapter. Mr. Byrum is a certified health physicist.



**TREASURER– Todd Becker**  
Todd is the Emergency Manager at NC State University and has worked at NC State for five years. He was previously an Environmental Health Specialist at Wake County, NC. He graduated from NC State University in 1996 with a degree in Natural Resources and is currently enrolled in the Occupational Safety master's program at East Carolina University.



**COUNCIL PERSON– Eric Roberts**  
Eric Roberts has been the owner of Indoor Environmental in Newell, near Charlotte, since 1987. Indoor Environmental does Indoor Air Quality evaluations; Radon detection, mitigation, and consultation; and radiological evaluations of building materials. Two current projects include trying to get mandatory training and certification of radon practitioners in North Carolina, and also trying to get radon resistant new construction practices included in NC building codes. Eric has a BS degree in Engineering Management from Clarkson College of Technology (now University) in Potsdam, NY. Eric is also active in the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists, and the National Environmental Health Association. When he's not chasing radon or trying to figure out how much uranium is in a chunk of concrete, you might find him on a bicycle out on some country road, or in a small plane boring holes in the sky, or camping out on a mountain top somewhere.

### Executive Council 2008

**Past President- Ritchie Buschow**  
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**President- Amy Orders**  
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**President-elect- Laura Pring**  
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**Secretary- J. Marion Eddy III**  
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**Council person- Jonathan Moore**  
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### Committees

**Program– Laura Pring**

**Public Info/ Education- Dale Dusenbury**  
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**Nominating– Richie Buschow**

**Newsletter Editor- Wendy Woehr**  
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**Public Issues- David Lee**  
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**TOREY- Dawn Burke**

**Student Paper- Amy Orders**

### Adjunct Members/Appointees

**Science Teacher Workshop- Dale Dusenbury, Jr**

**Survey Meter Custodian- Bill Fitzgerald**  
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**Historian- Marion Eddy III**

## IRPA Update from President-Elect Laura Pring

Last fall, during the week of October 19-24th, the International Radiation Protection Association 12 Congress convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Nearly fifty Health Physics Society members including thirty selected HPS delegates attended. Globally, approximately fifty radiation protection organizations were represented resulting in close to 1500 attendees. IRPA holds meetings in different locations around the globe every four years. After you join the national HPS society, you are automatically an IRPA member.



As a delegate representing the North Carolina Health Physics Society Chapter at the International Radiation Protection Association 12 Congress in Buenos Aires, my primary responsibility was to attend the special HPS caucus meetings and vote in the IRPA Congress General Assembly. The General Assembly elects the officers and Executive Council members of IRPA for the next 4 years, chooses the location of the next Congress, and also votes on any other items introduced. Our HPS delegation met three times during the week to plan voting strategy. We nominated Ken Kase for President of IRPA and Dick Toohey for Treasurer. Dick Griffith was also endorsed for re-appointment as Publications Director. As IRPA delegates representing HPS we participated in the technical meeting, assessed the state of radiation protection in other countries compared to that in the US, and established professional relationships with international colleagues. The IRPA delegate status is maintained until the 2012 IRPA 13 Congress which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland.

Several planned events took place during the week which provided ample opportunities to meet international colleagues, experience the local culture and for the HPS delegation to connect outside of the meeting setting. Overall, attending The International Radiation Protection Association 12 Congress in Buenos Aires was a great experience for me, and I truly appreciated the opportunity to have represented the NCHPS chapter.




### Future Meetings

**June 13-17, 2009**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 56th Annual Meeting Society Of Nuclear Medicine

**June 14-18 2009**, Atlanta, Georgia, American Nuclear Society Annual Meeting

**July 12-16, 2009**, Minneapolis, MN, National Health Physics Society 54th Annual Meeting

**July 19-23 2009**, Anaheim, CA, 51st Annual Meeting, American Association of Physicists in Medicine



**Affiliates:****Protean Instruments**

**Corporation, Darrell Scoggins**  
231 Sam Rayburn Pkwy, Lenior City, TN 37771  
865-717-3456

**Thermo Scientific, David Nice**

303 Wingcup Way, Simpsonville, SC 29680  
Tel: (864)963-7996 Cell: (864)-630-9703

**Bionomics Inc, John McCormick**

PO Box 817, Kingston, TN 37763  
865-220-8501

**Laurus System Inc., Laura Lynch**

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(410) 465-5558

**PerkinElmer Life Sciences,****Julie Ginsler**

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**Wm B. Johnson & Assoc.,****Dick Landfried**

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**Mirion Technologies,****Terry C. Moore**

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**Canberra Industries, Ron Vermilye**

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800-243-3955

**DEQ Technical Sales, Ray McPhillips & Mike****Shephard**

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(800) 622-0828

**Philotechnics, Ltd, Bob Pastor**

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**Ecology Service Inc, Paul Marshall**

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**Radiation Safety and Control Services, Jay Tarzia**

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**Landauer Inc**

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800-323-8830

**F&J Specialty Products, Inc., Frank Gavila**

404 Cypress Road, Ocala, FL 34472  
(352)680-1177 fax (352)680-1454  
fandj@fjspecialty.com

**Chase Environmental, John O'Neil**

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**Thanks to Our  
Affiliates!**

**Please take the survey!**

The North Carolina Health Physics Society Executive Council would like to ask for your feedback and input on select chapter planning activities. We have developed an online survey that will take no longer than 5-10 minutes to complete. The results will help us better prepare and plan chapter events. The survey is located online:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?  
sm=gAjBXXyRgBHCh\\_2fuNo8i5wg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=gAjBXXyRgBHCh_2fuNo8i5wg_3d_3d)

***Your time and input is greatly appreciated!***

**2008 NC HPS Budget****Income**

Membership dues	\$1,600.00
Meeting registration (total meeting income)	\$10,000.00
Duke Energy gift	\$500.00

**TOTAL INCOME** \$12,100.00

**Expenses**

Meeting Fees	\$11,000.00
Student Paper Competition	\$750.00
High School Competition Award	\$200.00
Science Teacher Workshop	\$100.00
NCHPS Business	\$350.00
PO Box	\$92.00
Officer Ballots	\$39.24
Newsletter	\$350.00
January 08	\$116.10
New Member Welcome Letters	\$75.00
Directories	\$500.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$13,325.00

**Account Balances as of 3/4/2008**

Savings	\$25,703.28
Checking	\$4,854.72

A \$3,000 transfer from the money market account was deposited into the checking account following the spring meeting. The estimated costs of the spring and fall meetings are based on increasing historical costs. All information is accurate as of March 4, 2008.

If you wish to contribute to the Chapter newsletter, please contact Wendy Woehr at 919-668-3155 or [wendy.woehr@duke.edu](mailto:wendy.woehr@duke.edu)



The newsletter is a publication of the North Carolina Chapter of the Health Physics Society

<http://hpschapters.org/northcarolina/newsletter.php3>