

Report of the Underwater Acoustics Technical Committee

2006-2007

The Hawaii meeting in December 2006 was a great success for the Underwater Acoustics Technical Committee (UWTC), with 12 sessions spread over five days, including special sessions organized by Eric Thorsos and Masao Kimura on Sediment Acoustic Processes, a memorial session in Honor of Leonid Brekhovskikh chaired by Bill Kuperman and Oleg Godin, and a memorial session in honor of Frederick Fisher, also chaired by Bill Kuperman. Many thanks to our Hawaii TPOM representative Martin Siderius for organizing all the sessions together with the special and memorial session organizers. The best student papers in underwater acoustics were “Higher frequency matched field processing” by Claire Debever of Scripps Institute of Oceanography and “Adapting results in filtering theory to inverse theory, to address the statistics of non-linear geoacoustic inversion problems” by Andy Ganse of the University of Washington. New fellows named at the Hawaii meeting with primary or secondary interest in underwater acoustics included Philippe Blanc-Benon, Charles Holland, Kevin LePage, David Palmer, Peter Rona, and Mark Trevorrow. Also announced at the meeting was Aaron Thode’s receipt of the 2005 A.B. Wood medal from the Institute of Acoustics. Congratulations to all.

After the Hawaii meeting Kathleen Wage, our student paper awards organizer, stepped down after several years of exemplary service to the TC. Juan Arvelo agreed to take up Kathleen’s work for the next few years, starting with the Salt lake meeting. I would like to thank Kathleen and Juan on behalf of the UWTC for agreeing to do this important work.

Also the Hawaii meeting was the last meeting at which Joseph Zalesak represented our TC on the ASA Committee on Standards (ASACOS). On behalf of the TC I would like to thank Joseph for his service.

The Hawaii meeting was followed in the Spring of 2007 with the Salt Lake City meeting, with Tracianne Neilsen doing a yeoman’s job at the TPOM meeting, with some timely assistance from George Ioup. There were 10 sessions either sponsored or co-sponsored by the UWTC, including an AO sponsored Hank Medwin memorial session chaired by Vance Holliday and David Farmer that was very well attended, and a UW sponsored special session on Passive Imaging using Random Wavefields chaired by Karim Sabra and Martin Siderius. New fellows named at the meeting included Karim and Claire Prada. Results are also just in on the student paper award winners. I would like to announce that the winner is Philip Gillett of Virginia Tech with his talk “Advantages of using diffracting cylinders and spheres in acoustic arrays,” and the runner up is Claire Debever with “Coherent-broadband, white noise constraint, matched-field processing.” Congratulations!