

Address contributions for *CHP News* and “CHP Corner” to:

Editor
Kyle Kleinhans, CHP
Work: 865-241-1024
Email: klink17@tds.net

Associate Editor
Harry Anagnostopoulos, CHP
Work: 702-295-3489
Email: H.Anagnostopoulos@NV.DOE.GOV

Continuing Education Committee Activities and Other Stuff

Jim Willison, CHP, Chair

This is just a short note to let you know that the Continuing Education Committee has been busy evaluating different activities for continuing education credits. Through the first half of 2010, approximately 165 submittals have been processed. Two American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) courses were offered this year at the Health Physics Society’s annual meeting in Salt Lake City, and two more are being arranged for the midyear meeting in Charleston.

The AAHP Executive Committee did approve some minor changes in the procedure the committee uses to grant credits. These include addressing the granting of credits for recorded presentations. The revised criteria for granting credits is posted on the Academy Web site (www.aahp-abhp.org). The committee is also looking into the level of credits granted for academic courses.

Now, let’s move on to a more interesting topic—the AAHP Web site. Shortly after the request for a photograph of William McAdams was printed in the February *Health Physics News*, Howard Dickson’s brother managed to locate the family of McAdams. After we corresponded with them a few times, they sent us copies of several photos and a more complete curriculum vitae. The photo of William McAdams has been posted on the awards page of the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) (www.hps1.org/aahp/boardweb/awards/mcAdams.html). Further, a separate page devoted just to the career of McAdams is linked from that page. He had a remarkable career and I encourage everyone to read about it.

During the correspondence with his family, his daughter, Susan Hansbury, related a story that I think you will

all appreciate. Following is her story:

You might like this story about the beginning of the American Board of Health Physics. It was a Sunday afternoon in, I think, 1960, around this time of the year, and my dad was in the little office he had fixed up for himself on the lower level of our split-level house in Schenectady. I, age 13, walked in to ask for money for a church group activity, and I was surprised when he said yes, but I would have to earn it. He said that he was president of a new organization, the American Board of Health Physics. I was impressed, but then he explained that he had been chosen by drawing straws and anyone in the founding group would be qualified.

He had in front of him the first 200 certificates, to be issued to the people who had completed the certification process. These were already imprinted with the recipients’ names and signed by him and by, I believe, Elda Anderson. As president, he had signed his own certificate, which amused me. He was busy affixing the gold seals, and this was time-consuming. He had completed 28 certificates and had 172 to go, along with a large stack of office work. While General Electric supported his involvement in the organization to a point, this was mostly a personal commitment to be managed on his own time. He said he would pay me so many cents per seal to do the remaining certificates.

Here was what he wanted done. He had cut a manila folder so that a certificate would fit exactly inside it, lined up with the edge. He had carefully measured the gold seal stickers and then had measured and marked the exact spot on the manila folder where the seal should be placed. He used a compass to trace a perfect circle

precisely the size of the seal, and he had carefully cut the circle out of the manila folder with a razor blade, so that the seal with its jagged edges would just fit in the hole. Then he had meticulously marked compass points at the top, bottom, and sides of the hole, and had placed a mark that would align with the tiny black mark on the edge of each seal. This would allow the seals to be placed in exactly the same spot on each certificate and lined up perfectly straight. I am sure this took him much careful thought and a long time. Each certificate needed to be placed in the folder and lined up. Then each gold seal needed to be moistened with a sponge and fitted into the hole and precisely aligned and gently patted in place.

When he explained how carefully this needed to be done, I remarked that if a seal were off by a tiny bit, no one would ever notice. I have never forgotten his reply. He said, in a quiet voice, "Well, you have to remember that each man will get his own, and he did a lot of work to earn it, and he's going to look at it pretty hard." He explained about the certification process and about the test he and the other founders had devised. I was interested to learn that he and the other founders did not take the test themselves, because they were the experts in the field and no one else was qualified to assess their knowledge. He told me about why he and the others had

decided that a certification process was needed and about some of the problems caused by unqualified "experts" who had provided wrong information and guidance.

He turned his desk over to me so that I would have a proper work area, and he took his office work to another corner of the house. It took me all afternoon to affix the rest of the seals, because I had to be so painstaking, thinking of each man, whom I would never see, but who had done a lot of work to earn his certificate and would look at it pretty hard.

This was the importance that my dad placed on the ABHP certification process and the high regard he felt for those who completed it.

I know that he would be very glad to know that this organization and its important mission continue, and he would be deeply honored to be remembered through the award in his name.

By the way, by the time this is published, the slides from the AAHP Special Session in Salt Lake City will have been posted to the Public Library section of the AAHP Web site (http://www.hpsl.org/aaHP/public/wp_sessions.htm). Please take some time to look over what Rich Vetter and Dan Strom managed to arrange.

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee

Ruth E. McBurney, CHP, Chair

The activities of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee were, fortunately, very limited this past year. This is a good sign that suggests that our colleagues are continuing to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner.

The committee reviewed nominations and documentation for the 2010 Joyce P. Davis Award and selected Frazier Bronson as this year's recipient. The recommendation was approved by the Awards Committee, and the award was presented to Frazier at the 2010 American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Awards Luncheon on 29 June 2010 at the Health Physics Society Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Davis Award is an AAHP award given in memory and honor of Joyce P. Davis in recognition of her dedication to the advancement of health physics and her humanitarian efforts to uphold the ethics of the profession. The recipients of this award demonstrate these extraordinary qualities exemplified by Joyce P. Davis, distinguishing themselves for excellence in professional achievement as well as being admired for ethical behavior and interpersonal skills.

The award was presented to Frazier Bronson this year in recognition of the fact that Frazier epitomizes the kind of health physicist who meets all of the criteria for the Davis Award in his profession, behavior, and interactions with others. In addition to his extensive professional accomplishments, Frazier's contributions to the AAHP and the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) are equally impressive.

Frazier served as chair of the ABHP in 1988 and 1989 and as the president of the AAHP in 2005. While working with the Board, he was instrumental in establishing the William McAdams Outstanding Service Award and was a recipient of that award in 1996.

His work with the Academy resulted in registration from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for the title "Certified Health Physicist." This was a major accomplishment and brought a higher level of professionalism and integrity to the certification process and in the practice of health physics.

A complete copy of the award citation and picture of Frazier will be published in the *Health Physics Journal* later this year.

