

## Harold Berger, PhD '51



Joshua Goldberg: I (Harold Berger) was pleased to receive the first issue of *Physics Matters* -- and to learn something about what is going on at Syracuse. I'd like to participate in your plan to learn what has happened to the Syracuse Physics grads. I received a BS in Physics at Syracuse in 1949 and an MS in 1951 (MS thesis with Prof. Charles Bachman) -- so you and I did overlap a bit in our time at Syracuse. I returned to the campus in 1997 to attend the 50th anniversary event but haven't been back since then. As I look over the names listed on the Physics Department web site, I recognize only a few -- yours, Herbert Berry, Eric Harth and Arny Honig.

I've had a long (joyful and successful) career as an Applied Physicist. I owe much to the enthusiasm and support of Prof. William Fredrickson -- for encouraging me to pursue a physics career. There have been many others who helped me along the way including Prof. Robert C. McMaster (Ohio State University) for his help in starting me on a career in nondestructive testing (NDT) and Dr. John E. Jacobs, a mentor in my first job with GE. Jacobs went on to become a Professor of EE at Northwestern University. My career has been primarily in R&D in the field of NDT, working with neutrons, x-rays, ultrasound and infrared. My publications include a book on neutron radiography in 1965, three books as Editor and more than 200 other book, encyclopedia and journal publications. I held a Professional Engineer license (Quality Engineering, California) from 1977 to 2006.

Although I never went on to a Ph.D. (and that did shut me out of several opportunities), I did succeed in a few areas traditionally the realm of a PhD -- being named a Senior Physicist at Argonne National Laboratory and appointed the first Chief of the Office of Nondestructive Evaluation at the National Bureau of Standards (over the initial objections of the NBS Director).

My applied physics career included positions at GE (mainly with the X-Ray Department in Milwaukee, 1950-59), Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus (1959-60), Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois (1960-73, including a sabbatical year at the Centre D'Etudes Nucleaires in Grenoble, France, 1968-69) and at the National Bureau of Standards (1973-81) in Maryland. I started an R&D business in 1981, Industrial Quality, Inc., and had a more than 20 year run doing R&D projects for industry and government. Running a company (meeting a payroll!) and working with a cooperative group of talented people was a very happy time in my life and career. I tried to serve as a mentor to the young engineers who were with my company -- another satisfying aspect of running your own business. I am still working a bit -- as a consultant to the Digitome Corporation (working on a tomosynthesis technique for 3-D imaging of x-rays) and, as part of a Digitome CRADA with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), as a Research Associate at NIST.

On a personal note, my wife, Dawn, and I have been happily married for almost 55 years. We have five children and ten grandchildren. We have lived in Maryland since 1973.

I can send you a longer description of my career if that would be of interest. The attached ~1980's photo may help you recall me. I look forward to seeing "life stories" from physics grads who were at Syracuse during my 1946-1950 period and beyond.

Regards to you and your colleagues at Syracuse.

Harold (Harry) Berger

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<mailto:harryberger@comcast.net>

Tel. 301-330-1701