

Noisy Planet and ASA: Partnering to Help Youth Develop Healthy Hearing Habits

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The science of sound and the science of hearing go hand in hand (or is that ear in ear?). No matter which aspect of acoustics—musical, architectural, physical, underwater to name a few you are fascinated by—it is the ability to hear and enjoy sounds that enhances the human experience and our quality of life. That is why the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders' *It's a Noisy Planet. Protect Their Hearing®* is proud to be collaborating with the Acoustical Society of America to encourage youth to develop healthy hearing habits and prevent noise-induced hearing loss.

For millions of people, the ability to appreciate the acoustics of an amphitheater or hear the voice of a loved one is made more difficult because they have hearing loss. Some of these people have noise-induced hearing loss, the only form of hearing loss that is completely preventable. Nearly 26 million American, ages 20 – 69, have high frequency hearing loss due to exposure to loud noises, either at work or during leisure activities.

In June 2008, the NIDCD launched the Noisy Planet campaign, a national education program to increase awareness among children, ages 8 to 12, about the causes and prevention of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). With this information, parents, health professionals, educators, and other adults help children (and themselves) protect their hearing by encouraging them to adopt healthy hearing habits. These healthy habits include three simple steps:

- Lower the volume. Set the volume on electronic devices to a level that allows you to still hear what's going on around you.
- Move away. Put some distance between you and the noise source to reduce the impact on your ears.
- Wear hearing protectors. Have earplugs or earmuffs on hand, and use them if you can't leave a noisy place.

Noisy Planet has been reaching the campaign's target audiences through several outreach efforts, most notably through partnerships with organizations like ASA.

As one of Noisy Planet's longest collaborators, ASA has been instrumental in helping expand the campaign's hearing loss prevention messages. Working with ASA is a natural fit, given the Society's involvement in the study of noise, its measurement, its effects, and ways to reduce noise to improve the human environment. In addition to linking to each other's website, Noisy Planet has presented to ASA's Education Committee and introduced them to Noisy Planet's science-based information on hearing loss prevention. Recently, Noisy Planet encouraged youth and their parents to visit ASA's Listen to Sounds and Explore Sounds websites to enjoy interesting animal noises while learning more about the science of acoustics. Through these activities, Noisy Planet hopes that youth will begin to engage with and understand the science of acoustics and noise, and start taking the steps necessary to protect their hearing.

Another key activity to reach preteens with healthy hearing messages is through outreach to schools. Noisy Planet staff have been providing 45-minute, interactive presentations to students in grades 3-8 in the greater Washington, D.C. area. Since June 2010, Noisy Planet staff have reached more than 12,500.

Noisy Planet is in the process of developing a training guide that will allow other interested adults, whether they are educators, health professionals, or acoustics experts, to give the presentation and expand the reach of this engaging activity to more youth across the country. Stay tuned for future announcements on how you can get involved in helping youth learn about the science of hearing and how to develop healthy hearing habits.

As an ASA member, Noisy Planet encourages you to visit the website at www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov. The website includes a range of materials from free fact sheets to shareable images and Web banners and interactive quizzes and games for preteens. Please feel free to link to our website, share our images and graphics, and sign up for the Noisy Planet E-bulletin, which provides regular updates on partner activities, new publications and materials, and other activities. If you have an opportunity to work with preteens and parents, Noisy Planet encourages you to contact us for free materials at NPInfo@nidcd.nih.gov or 800-241-1044. And we welcome any and all feedback on our materials and how we can work with ASA and its membership to amplify our healthy hearing habit messages!

Student Activities at the ASA Indianapolis Meeting

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The 168th meeting of the ASA featured many wonderful student activities. About 60 students came to the Student Orientation Session, half of whom were attending their first Society meeting. Monday's Meet and Greet attracted more than 130 students. Wednesday's Social was equally successful, and we would like to thank the NCAC for helping to make the event possible!

A special poster session on graduate programs in acoustics was held Wednesday morning and was very well attended. A total of 17 departments gave presentations and well over 100 undergraduates, graduate students, and other members stopped by to learn about the great acoustics research going on at these universities.

Student and Young Presenter Paper Awards will be given out to members of the AO, AB, AA, BA, EA, MU, NS, SP, SC, SA, and UW Technical Committees for their papers presented at the Indianapolis meeting. More information can be found at the ASA student website, <http://asastudentcouncil.org>.
Congratulations to the winners!

At the Providence meeting, the Student Council began giving out stickers to attendees that are color coordinated to each TC, so if they see somebody with their same color, they know they can start a discussion about their TC. This has been a great icebreaker and was continued at the Indianapolis meeting. We plan to continue the tradition at future meetings, so look out for your TC's sticker color and feel free to stop by to see your student council representative to get a sticker!

The Student Council Mentoring Award will be presented at the Pittsburgh meeting. The Mentoring Award has been given out by the Student Council since 2004 to recognize a person who has demonstrated exceptional ability in guiding the academic and/or professional growth of her/his students and junior colleagues. More information can be found at <http://asastudentcouncil.org>.



Students mingle at the Meet and Greet on Monday, October 27, 2014 during the 168th Meeting of the ASA in Indianapolis.

As always, we would like to encourage all undergraduates, graduate students, and new post-docs to come to all of our student events, including the Orientation and Meet and Greet on Monday, the Wednesday social and ASA Jam, and the student outings. It's a great way to meet fellow students and learn about their research while having a great time! For all the latest information, follow the student council on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/ASAStudents>, and follow us on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/ASAStudents>. See you in Pittsburgh!

News from the Acoustical Society Foundation

*Mission of the Acoustical Society Foundation Board:
To support the mission of the ASA by developing financial
resources for strategic initiatives and special purposes.*

For quite some time, the Acoustical Society has subsidized travel expenses for students to attend the semi-annual ASA meetings. This brings new members to the meetings that they otherwise may not be able to attend, increases opportunities for students to present papers and network for future careers in acoustics, and enables the Society to grow and engage students in the future of the profession. The support for these subsidies comes from donations to the Acoustical Society Foundation. For each meeting, anywhere from two to four dozen students or groups of students apply for these subsidies. The total available funds for each meeting is around \$15,000 (only about half of the total amount requested), and this amount is then pro-rated among the applicants to be as fair as possible to all. The Acoustical Society Foundation is appreciative of the support from donors to the Fund so we can provide these subsidies. We encourage you will continue this support so we can expand and maintain this program.