



I endeavor to have a diverse set of topics in each issue of *Acoustics Today* (*AT*) so that, over the course of a few issues, every member of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA)

will find articles that relate to technical areas of interest to them as well as additional articles that will introduce them to new and interesting topics. In some ways, I have “failed” with this issue but in an interesting way. That is, there is less diversity but more interrelatedness in the articles than usual.

Three of the featured articles cover sound communication by animals. Gerald Pollack discusses sound production and detection in the largest and most diverse group of land animals—insects. Peter Tyack considers acoustic communication in the largest (in body mass, not number) marine animals—the cetaceans. And Joy Reidenberg provides fascinating insight into how vertebrates, and particularly marine mammals, produce sounds. All three articles are accompanied by multimedia.

Last year, I was in Dublin and had dinner with Enda Murphy. Before dinner ended, I had persuaded Enda to do an article on the effects of environmental noise on humans. The article, although it focuses on humans, has striking implications for the effects of man-made sound on animals and so has bearing on the insect and marine mammal articles.

In his article, Enda mentions the use of smartphones to measure environmental noise, and, by chance, this issue has an article on the topic by Benjamin Faber. Ben’s article arises out of a special session at an ASA meeting that he organized a few years ago and shows how we can easily use our smartphones to replace, or at least supplement, more single-purpose instrumentation.

In addition to longer featured articles, every issue of *AT* has shorter pieces on topics that hopefully interest ASA members (and others). This issue is particularly rich in interesting shorter pieces that I mention below. But, before that, I want to tell you about a change in *AT* starting with this issue. The fact that we have so many interesting shorter pieces prompted the *AT* Editorial Board to think about how we should organize such material in the magazine. Up until now, these

pieces were distributed over several “departments” in *AT*, and some were in the front and some in the back, with no particular organization. Because the topics were so diverse, it became hard to decide their place in the magazine.

To “solve” this problem and to give the shorter pieces more prominence, we decided to have a new section in *AT* called “Sound Perspectives.” Sound Perspectives will be a section in *AT* for columns that range from 500 to 2,500 words (scientific articles are about 6,000 words) and that cover various topics.

Our first set of Sound Perspectives is particularly diverse. One perspective, by ASA Editor in Chief James Lynch and Adrian KC Lee, addresses an issue of great concern to all ASA members—speed of publication of ASA journals. Jim and KC describe the very productive approach that the ASA has taken to markedly speed up the time from submission to publication of an article in *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* (*JASA*). Jim and KC make it clear that what they are describing are really the first steps and that the speed of publication is a very high priority for the ASA Publications Office.

The ASA is greatly interested in increasing the number of women engaged in STEM fields and particularly in acoustics. The ASA has a very active Women in Acoustics (WIA) Committee, and it has been doing some very interesting things to move the ASA in this direction. Because this is so important to the ASA, I invited the leaders of the WIA Committee to contribute columns to *AT* on a regular basis (for now they decided to do a column twice a year) to inform members of their activities and the issues that are of concern. The first such column, by Lauren Ronsse and Tracianne Neilsen, is in this issue, and they share fascinating information about seven women who have been scholars, mentors, and leaders in acoustics.

Another column in this issue is by Kenneth J. de Jong and Terrin Tamati. They served as local chairs at the Indianapolis ASA meeting and were challenged, as are all organizers, with locating different concurrent sessions so that members had to take the least amount of time going between sessions that interested them. Ken and Terrin did an analysis of member interests, as they describe in their column, and were success-

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