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-
ful in helping attendees minimize the time and get to hear papers in several concurrent sessions.

Another biannual feature of AT is the education programs of the Society. ASA Education and Outreach Coordinator L. Keeta Jones writes in this issue about how ASA members can enhance their skills at doing outreach to nonscientists, something that is critically important to the future of all STEM disciplines.

The final column continues the series about the various ASA Technical Committees (TCs). Christine Erbe (TC Chair) and Micheal Dent (AT Associate Editor) discuss the Animal Bioacoustics (AB) TC (being in an issue with three related articles is pure coincidence). The AB TC (of which I am a member) has members with diverse interests and overlaps with many other TCs, as seen if you look at the statistics in the column by de Jong and Tamati.

Finally, I want to direct the attention of our readers to a new feature of the AT website—interviews with South American acousticians. This series, which we present in both English and Spanish, is being written by AT intern Dr. Ernesto Accolti. The purpose of this series is to introduce ASA members to colleagues from South America and to help foster the ASA strategic plan goal of increasing international involvement of the Society.

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**NEWS** from the Acoustical Society Foundation Fund

Last year, the Foundation received a most thoughtful contribution from a former Acoustical Society of America (ASA) colleague (anonymous) to acknowledge his fond memories of classroom time and lab projects with a distinguished professor who set him on his engaging career in acoustics. He proffered a $1,000 donation to support travel for a promising student at his mentor’s graduate school to attend the ASA meeting in Honolulu. The donor gave the gift in memory of Francis H. Fenlon, requesting only that the grantee submit a one-page report on his or her experience at the meeting. Here are excerpts from the student’s report.

*The benefit of attending a diverse research conference is expanding one’s horizons by viewing different talks in areas far from one’s own. I met one student who used ultrasonic transducers as I do, but in the field of linguistics…. to see the shape of the tongue when making difficult-to-produce sounds. We were able to discuss the pros and cons of using higher frequency versus lower frequency transducers, and I learned more about languages and cultures and uses for linguistics research in education….I have left the conference feeling inspired to further research with this community.*

The student thanked her advisor, Penn State, and the Acoustical Society Foundation for enabling her to be at the conference on a generous travel fellowship.

This gift was a thoughtful gesture to support future generations of education and research. What a wonderful way to “pay it forward.” We encourage other members of the Society to follow this generous example.

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

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