



This is a special issue of *Acoustics Today* (AT) because it is the first issue ever to have articles where all of the senior authors are women. Of course, many past articles in AT have

had women authors. But as I started to put this issue together, I realized that all the authors who I had invited to write an article up to that point were women. And, at the same time, I was starting to get to know the Women in Acoustics (WIA) Committee and developing a great appreciation for the substantial value they bring to the Acoustical Society of America (ASA).

I then realized that this issue was well on the way to celebrating women in the ASA, and so with the guidance of several ASA woman leaders, I invited a number of other women to write articles to fill out the issue. At about the same time, I met one of the founders of the WIA Committee, Alex Tolstoy, and discovered that she, as a “retiree,” had become an outstanding watercolorist ([atolstoyart.com](http://atolstoyart.com)). I persuaded Alex (though, in truth, persuasion was not hard) to do the wonderful cover celebrating women in acoustics that graces this issue.

This issue starts with an article by former ASA president Marcia Isakson and WIA founder Alex Tolstoy. Marcia and Alex share brief interviews with a number of ASA woman members who discuss some of the issues these women have dealt with as they pursued their careers. I think everyone will find these vignettes fascinating. Some are rather disturbing, but as Marcia and Alex move forward in time in the article, perhaps we see hope that impediments to the success of woman may be lessening.

This piece is then followed by a set of regular AT articles. We start with an article that should interest every ASA member with children (or grandchildren) by Laura Brill, Kieren Smith, and current ASA president Lily Wang. In their article, the authors discuss the acoustics of classrooms and the approaches being explored to make this very important environment a more effective learning space.

The next article also covers a topic that is of interest to anyone who travels and perhaps mostly to those who will take the long trip to Sydney for the next ASA international meet-

ing. In this article, Alexandra Loubeau and Juliet Page raise the issue of human perception of sonic booms, with a focus on how to lessen these sounds to allow for future commercial supersonic flight. This is followed by article by Christina Naify, Michael Haberman, Matthew Guild, and Caleb Sieck. The article takes a fascinating look at leaky wave antennas and how they can be used in direction finding and dispersion of signals.

Next, Jennell Vick discusses development of speech in young children. Jennell, using videos of language development in her daughters, shares insights that should be of interest to anyone who has been amazed at how children develop speech. This is followed by an article by Kathleen Wage that takes us back to the idea of array processing but with an approach that uses the fewest possible sensors. In the last article, Lisa Zurk explores ways in which signal processing to improve the classification of underwater sound sources in environments in which sound propagation is complex.

We continue with our *Sound Perspectives* essays with a piece in “Ask an Acoustician” about another woman member of the ASA, Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp. Brigitte has been active in the ASA for many years and continues to make contributions to ASA international programs. Her research on soundscapes has been featured in a number of past AT articles, and I found it really interesting to learn more about Brigitte’s career.

If you have ever wondered how our semiannual meetings were organized, we have an essay from the Committee on Meetings that gives really useful and interesting insights. Anyone thinking about organizing a future meeting for ASA should absolutely read this essay.

Noise Awareness Day is the topic of this issue’s essay by L. Keeta Jones, the ASA Education and Outreach Coordinator. The final essay comes from the ASA Student Council where they share thoughts about career development from several early-career acousticians.

I want to take this opportunity express my gratitude to the ASA members who have served on the AT Editorial Board. The ASA leadership has agreed that we have a somewhat different approach in providing advice and guidance for AT in the future. This approach will allow me to have a set of infor-

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From the Editor

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mal “advisors” who I can turn to with questions about potential articles, reviews of some articles I receive, and other matters. This informal approach provides me with a much broader group of people who I can turn to from time to time and to seek help from different groups of people depending on the question at hand. At the same time, I suspect that the people who have served on the Editorial Board will be among those I turn to for advice because they have, to a person, been helpful and thoughtful and provided invaluable insight as AT has evolved.

As I end, I want to mention that if anyone is as delighted by this issue’s cover (and Alex’s painting) as I am and would like a high-resolution copy that they can get printed in order to frame, drop Alex a note ([atolstoy@gmail.com](mailto:atolstoy@gmail.com)) and she will send you the PDF.