This is the first issue (ever!) of *Acoustics Today* not to be edited by Dick Stern, who edited this magazine from its first issue in October 2005 until his death on June 19, 2013. While it seems like only yesterday that the Society made the decision to have a popular magazine and appointed Dick as its founding editor, we are now in the second half of the ninth year. A lot of “good stuff” has been published with Dick's guidance during those years, and it is hoped that the tradition will continue with the same degree of excellence. As is described in the “News” section of this issue, a search is fully underway to find a new Editor, and it is hoped that the new Editor will take the reins by the beginning of 2014. In the meanwhile, the magazine will continue to be published at intervals of three months or less, and someone has to serve as an Acting Editor. This temporary job has devolved upon the ASA Editor-in-Chief, and what is here is the first of probably three issues that he will edit.

Actually, putting together the content of this issue didn't present too big a challenge as Dick had laid out a plan some time ago to have this issue focus on noise, and had asked Scott Sommerfeldt to guest-edit this issue. Scott, in his guest editorial below, has more to say about this.

While the bulk of the articles in this issue is consequent-ly about noise, the newly appointed Acting Editor wanted to make sure that this issue did not end up being too slim, and invited another article, this one being in the general area of underwater acoustics. A couple of years ago, the present writer was privileged to hear a talk by Lisa Zurk in a “Hot Topics” session at the Spring 2011 ASA meeting in Seattle. The talk was appropriately titled “Hot Topics in Underwater Acoustics,” and a hot topic that was described in the talk was “the application of the waveguide invariant in active and passive sonar systems for enhanced detection, localization, and classification.” It seemed incredible that there was something that was invariant in underwater acoustics that the bulk of the underwater acoustics community didn’t know about 10 years ago, but such does appear to be the case. The waveguide invariant isn't easy to explain, but it was anticipated that the one person who could explain it best would be Chris Harrison. The end result of this line of thinking is the last article in this issue, the article being about the underlying basis of the waveguide invariant.

The other material in this issue is, of course, recommended reading. It is especially recommended that you read the piece in the “Passings” section about the life and achievements of Dick Stern. An incredible person! He will be missed!
and misstatements that have propagated through the years that have led to erroneous conclusions and which complicate the issue of trying to determine what the effects are that are associated with this low-frequency noise.

On the other end of the spectrum, there is no disagreement that military jet engine noise is very loud and that it would be good to be able to attenuate it, through either design or control. However, this jet noise also represents a complex noise source, and while much understanding has been gained over the years, there is still much that is not understood. In their article, Kent Gee et al. overview some of the previous work in this area that has led to a greater understanding of this complex noise source. They also present more recent near-field measurement data they have taken that is being used to work towards a better understanding of the source properties, with the hope of using a better characterization of the noise source to guide efforts to modify and attenuate the acoustic radiation.

Whether loud or soft, we live in a world where we are surrounded by noise of one sort or another. I hope you will enjoy browsing through this issue to gain more understanding of some of the intriguing work that is ongoing in the area of noise.