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Preparing for the International Year of Sound 2020

The International Commission for Acoustics (ICA) declared 2020 the International Year of Sound (IYS 2020). The primary goal of the IYS 2020 is to stimulate the understanding and awareness of the important role that sound plays in all aspects of society. Some of the ICA central activities include an official opening ceremony, an international student competition, and production of a video on the importance of sound. To see the growing list of ICA activities and other member activities, visit sound2020.org.

As the premier acoustical organization, the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) is honored and excited to support the IYS 2020 global initiative. The ASA will work to organize events in the United States, both at and outside Society meetings. Thanks to the commitment of the ASA to acoustics education and outreach, the Society is able to support the IYS 2020 goal with some preexisting programs. We already know that everyone can look forward to celebrating IYS 2020 with the following programs:

- International Noise Awareness Day activities in April. In the past, the ASA has hosted soundwalks, citizen science data collection, and a livestreamed noise discussion with experts.
- The USA Science and Engineering Festival in April. The ASA hosts a booth at the largest free STEM Festival in the United States to introduce guests to the science of sound with fun and engaging demos.
- The Wikipedia Editing Workshop in May. Attendees can learn how to edit and improve Wikipedia articles to enhance education and increase access to accurate information.
- Short acoustics-themed videos. With the help of the American Institute of Physics (AIP), the ASA will produce and release several visually engaging videos to be shared with anyone throughout the year.
- Hands-on acoustics demonstration sessions in May and November. The ASA will share entertaining and educational acoustics activities that encourage people to learn more about the field.

In addition to these well-established programs, the ad hoc IYS 2020 committee is discussing even more activities. For example, I will be collaborating with the director of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) and Sigma Pi Sigma ($\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$), Brad Conrad, to develop acoustics-themed SPS Science Outreach Catalyst Kits for ASA and SPS chapters. There is also discussion of an educator workshop with the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), similar to ones done in the past.

Additional IYS 2020 program possibilities include T-shirt fundraisers, a special *Acoustics Today* issue, tours of interesting acoustic spaces, network television coverage, social media campaigns, sound competitions, and everything in between. IYS 2020 programs will take place at Society meetings and at regional and student chapter locations. My hope is to see

multiple IYS 2020 events every month, which are supported by the ASA and our members. The year 2020 will be a great year to introduce the public to our science and our Society. If you don't want to miss any of the IYS 2020 excitement, be sure to follow the ASA on Twitter (twitter.com/acousticsorg) and Facebook (facebook.com/acousticsorg)!

NEWS

from the Acoustical Society Foundation Fund

I appreciate the opportunity to inform the membership and friends of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) about the Acoustical Society Foundation Fund. The Fund supports ASA scholarships, grants, fellowships, and other special programs from tax-deductible gifts. As I mentioned in the summer 2019 issue of *Acoustics Today*, I am featuring winners of ASA awards and prizes and how they benefited from the support the Society provided.

The Medwin Prize in Acoustical Oceanography was established in 2000 from a generous gift made to the Acoustical Society Foundation by Herman and Eileen Medwin to recognize a person for the effective use of sound in the discovery and understanding of physical and biological

parameters and processes in the sea. The prize includes a cash award of \$2,000, a certificate, and the opportunity to present the Acoustical Oceanography Prize Lecture. Jennifer Miksis-Olds of the University of New Hampshire (Durham) is a recent prize winner and writes, "In preparing for the prize lecture, I reflected on the past and the pillars upon which my research has been built. I looked into the future to envision where the field of ocean sound may be in a decade. The prize helped me to appreciate the diverse applications of sounds in the sea."

James H. Miller

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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.

ASFF For more information, contact James H. Miller at miller@uri.edu