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## Student Council Chairs Shed Light on Student Affairs

### Introductions

The chair of the Student Council is the most prestigious leadership role that a student can take on in the Acoustical Society of America (ASA). The ASA Student Council is charged with promoting the interests of student members of the Society, and the chair is an incredibly important part in achieving success on behalf of the student members of the ASA. We were able to interview both the outgoing and newly elected Student Council chairs, Trevor Jerome and Kieren Smith (**Figure 1**), who each have excellent insight, vision, and tips to share with current students and ASA members in general. First, some background on the two leaders.

An avid science fiction fan, Trevor remembers his first acoustically enveloping experience aboard a spacecraft command module during an overnight simulation mission with his 5th grade class at the Christa McAuliffe Space Center in Utah. He went on to earn his bachelor degree in physics with an acoustics emphasis from Brigham Young University (BYU; Provo, UT). Trevor is now wrapping up his PhD in acoustics from The Pennsylvania State University (PSU; University Park) where he researched structural vibration of fastened joints as a graduate research assistant in the PSU Applied Research Laboratory. After graduating, Trevor will start civilian employment at the US Naval Sea Systems Command-Carderock near Washington, DC.

Kieren was drawn to the field through her interest in music. As an undergraduate, she majored in audio engineering at BYU and decided to minor in physics and math after completing a musician noise-exposure project. She recently earned her master's in architectural engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is just starting her PhD at Arizona State University (Tempe) working on augmented reality technology. Kieren's strong and broad academic background exemplifies the interdisciplinary nature of the field of acoustics.

Both Trevor and Kieren saluted the roughly 150 Student Council members who preceded them and who established the Council as well as the Student Orientation, Student Socials, and Student Reception traditions that happen at every ASA meeting.



### Tips from our Leaders

We asked Trevor and Kieren, "What tips do you have for new and current ASA students?"

*Figure 1: The Student Council chairs and the authors (left to right): Trevor Jerome, Kieren Smith, Will Doebler, and Kali Burke.*

**Trevor:** “Strengthen old connections and forge new friendships. In my opinion, the greatest strength of the ASA is its breadth. In addition to regular ASA meetings, participate in a chapter and attend regional meetings. Engage with as many types of ASA members as you can. Find out what types of volunteer opportunities the Society has and play to your strengths as you pitch in. Meet members of the Student Council and introduce yourself to the technical committee chair and others at one or more open meetings.”

**Kieren:** “Get involved! Participate in the student events at conferences. Come talk to us to see how you can get involved between conferences. Do the Students Meet Members for Lunch (Blackstock, 2015). Sign up for committees and go to your technical committee meetings. Get out of your comfort zone and volunteer. You will be surprised at how much you can accomplish and how much support you will find in the ASA community.”

We outlined many of these student involvement and volunteer opportunities in a previous article (Burke and Doeblner, 2019), so be sure to check that out.

### Reflections on the Impact of the Acoustical Society of America

We asked Trevor and Kieren to think about how the ASA has impacted their lives so far.

**Kieren:** “The ASA has been an incredible support for my academic career thus far. It is the first conference where I presented research, the first place where I published, and where I have received and given academic mentorship. I have taken advantage of many of the opportunities the ASA has to offer, with scholarships, travel grants, publication opportunities, and so much more. It has given me a community and helped me in the formation of my academic identity.”

**Trevor:** “My connections with ASA members have developed into two internships, a military fellowship, graduate school, dozens of job prospects, and several formal job offers. I feel a sense of pride for the ASA, the network it supports, and the technical breadth it embodies. I’m always eager to introduce the ASA to others when working on projects or just chatting with friends. When discussing acoustics and its importance to those unfamiliar with it, it is natural for me to frame the conversation in terms of the research

and interdisciplinary aspects of the ASA and its international sisters.”

The ASA is clearly an important cornerstone in Trevor’s and Kieren’s paths to exemplary leadership.

### Kieren’s Vision for Her Term and Future Student Excursions

When asked what her goals are as Student Council chair, Kieren enthusiastically replied, “I want to continue the work of creating volunteer positions to help open leadership roles to more students and provide ways for them to get more connected. I also want to help strengthen our international connections. I want to connect with the leaders of student acoustic organizations around the world to create a global network of students where we can support each other in our research and work. I am excited about the term as Council chair, and I am so grateful for the amazing Council that we have. Everyone is incredibly hard working, and we will get so much done!” She also wholeheartedly endorses *POMA* (see [bit.ly/ASA\\_POMA](http://bit.ly/ASA_POMA)) and highly encourages all students to submit their conference proceedings there.

Trevor also commented that there are often more students willing to help out than there are Student Council positions. He is hopeful for student involvement to be expanded to include a “Student Delegation” that would aid in auxiliary efforts outside of typical Student Council activities. Kieren plans to continue pursuing this additional student group during her tenure. Look out for more information on this effort in the future!

### Summary and Additional Opportunities

When looking for role models in acoustics, it is easy to add Kieren and Trevor to your list. The two demonstrate the success that student members of the ASA can achieve, and they serve as an inspiration to current students. We look forward to their continued success as Trevor moves toward early-career membership and Kieren toward fulfilling her term goals.

In summary, the chairs pointed out the importance of connecting with acoustics students from across the country and the world at the ASA meetings. They both urged students to find ways to get involved with the ASA because of the ability of the ASA to propel members to success. Finally, they reminded us to take advantage of the breadth of the knowledge within the Society by continuing to learn about the many aspects of the interdisciplinary field we all love: acoustics.

Clearly, we as students are in good hands when it comes to our leaders. Do you see yourself as a leader and want to get more involved with the ASA? The ASA is currently looking for students to fill the Animal Bioacoustics (AB), Psychological and Physiological Acoustics (PP), and Underwater (UW) Technical Committee Student Council positions. Student Council terms last two years and include funding to attend the meetings. For more information, go to [asastudents.org](http://asastudents.org).

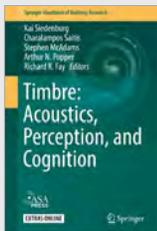
Perhaps it could be you who is the next ASA Student Council chair in the spotlight!

## References

- Blackstock, D. T. (2015). Students meet members for lunch. *Acoustics Today* 11(2), 72-73. Available at <https://bit.ly/SMMfL>.
- Burke, K., and Doebler, W. J. (2019). Taking the leap and getting involved as a student in the Acoustical Society of America. *Acoustics Today* 15(2), 48-50. Available at [https://bit.ly/ASAStudents\\_Volunteering](https://bit.ly/ASAStudents_Volunteering).

## Book Announcements | ASA Press

ASA Press is a meritorious imprint of the Acoustical Society of America in collaboration with Springer International Publishing. All new books that are published with the ASA Press imprint will be announced in *Acoustics Today*. Individuals who have ideas for books should feel free to contact the ASA Publications Office, [ASAPublications@acousticalsociety.org](mailto:ASAPublications@acousticalsociety.org), to discuss their ideas.



### Timbre: Acoustics, Perception, and Cognition

**Editors:** Kai Siedenburg, Charalampos Saitis, Stephen McAdams, Arthur N. Popper, Richard R. Fay

The Present, Past, and Future of Timbre Research – *Kai Siedenburg, et al.*

The Perceptual Representation of Timbre – *Stephen McAdams*

Timbre Recognition and Sound Source Identification – *Trevor R. Agus, et al.*

Memory for Timbre – *Kai Siedenburg, et al.*

The Semantics of Timbre – *Charalampos Saitis, et al.*

Neural Correlates of Timbre Processing – *Vinoo Alluri, et al.*

Voice Processing and Voice-Identity Recognition – *Samuel Robert Mathias, et al.*

Timbre as a Structuring Force in Music – *Stephen McAdams*

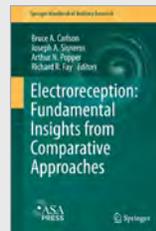
Timbre, Sound Quality, and Sound Design – *Guillaume Lemaitre, et al.*

Timbre Perception with Cochlear Implants – *Jeremy Marozeau, et al.*

Audio Content Descriptors of Timbre – *Marcelo Caetano, et al.*

Modulation Representations for Speech and Music – *Mounya Elhilali*

Timbre from Sound Synthesis and High-Level Control Perspectives – *Sølvi Ystad, et al.*



### Electroreception: Fundamental Insights from Comparative Approaches

**Editors:** Bruce A. Carlson, Joseph A. Sisneros, Arthur N. Popper, Richard R. Fay

A Brief History of Electrogenesis and Electroreception in Fishes – *Bruce A. Carlson, et al.*

The Development and Evolution of Lateral Line Electroreceptors: Insights from Comparative Molecular Approaches – *Clare V. H. Baker*

Electrosensory Transduction: Comparisons Across Structure, Afferent Response Properties, and Cellular Physiology – *Duncan B. Leitch, et al.*

The Evolution and Development of Electric Organs – *Jason R. Gallant*

Biophysical Basis of Electric Signal Diversity – *Michael R. Markham*

Hormonal Influences on Social Behavior in South American Weakly Electric Fishes – *Ana C. Silva*

Evolutionary Drivers of Electric Signal Diversity – *Rüdiger Krahe*

Using Control Theory to Characterize Active Sensing in Weakly Electric Fishes – *Sarah A. Stamper, et al.*

Envelope Coding and Processing: Implications for Perception and Behavior – *Michael G. Metzen, et al.*

Evolution of Submillisecond Temporal Coding in Vertebrate Electrosensory and Auditory Systems – *Bruce A. Carlson*

Influences of Motor Systems on Electrosensory Processing – *Krista Perks, et al.*

Active Electrolocation and Spatial Learning – *Sarah Nicola Jung, et al.*