

From the Editor

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As many members of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) know, *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* and other ASA journals have recently adopted new styles and covers.

These changes did not include *Acoustics Today* (AT) because our style is rather different from those of the ASA peer-reviewed publications.

However, about six months ago, we decided to try to make the magazine more readable, have it incorporate ASA publication standards (e.g., colors, fonts), and improve the way that the various parts of the magazine tie together. At the same time, we did not want to do anything to alter the content of the magazine or what it contributes to the ASA and its members.

This issue reflects these changes. We are very grateful to the Opus Design team and to the many members of the ASA who gave us feedback and additional ideas as we moved forward. We hope you like the changes and that you find the magazine even more readable than in the past. Of course, if you have other ideas to improve the look and feel and, most of all, the readability of AT, please share them with us.

I want to also point out a few new things on the AT website (see acousticstoday.org). First, we have a new AT intern, Hilary Kates Varghese, a graduate student at the University of New Hampshire (Durham). Over the course of the year, Hilary is going to interview a number of past ASA presidents about their careers and their work with the ASA. The first of these is now online at acousticstoday.org/meet-asa-presidents and more will come over the course of 2020. Please visit the site and learn more about a group of really interesting colleagues.

Second, AT collaborated with the ASA International Year of Sound Committee to produce a Special Issue of AT that is aimed at teaching about acoustics to high-school and college students, teachers, politicians, regulators, and others. You can see the issue at acousticstoday.org/IYS2020. Feel free to share the link to the issue with students and

teachers you know (including your children's teachers). And, in the future, AT would be interested in collaborating with other ASA groups and activities to develop special issues that focus on a particular topic.

As you can see, this is a large issue of AT, filled with exciting articles and a number of very interesting essays. I want to point out that the first four articles have as a theme (although specifically only a focus of the second article) using acoustic computation to solve big problems. This was not intentional but is an interesting occurrence that reflects the growing importance of computation in science and technology, including in acoustics (and in the ASA).

The first article by Jennifer Amaral, Kathleen Vigness-Raposa, James Miller, Gopu Potty, Arthur Newhall, and Ying-Tsong Lin is about the sound from offshore windfarms. Although AT has had articles about onshore windfarms, this is the first article that explores the underwater sounds from what will be a vastly growing number of offshore devices.

One of the issues arising in this article is the way that underwater sound propagates. In a way, this issue is addressed in our second article by Gregory Bunting, Clark Dohrmann, Scott Miller, and Timothy Walsh. They consider that many acoustic problems are extremely complex and require extensive computations. In their article, the authors discuss the methods now available for such computations.

Again, related to the idea of analysis of complex acoustics, in the third article, Richard (Dan) Costley Jr. provides fascinating insight into how the military used acoustics to locate enemy artillery in World War I (WWI). The methods used seem "crude" by today's standards, but they were very effective.

The fourth article by Orest Diachok continues with computational acoustics in the sense that Orest writes about using sound to find and identify fish. Using sound to find fish comes out of WWI, and there is a continuing quest to use acoustics and computation to improve fisheries methods.

The fifth article by Daniel Russell moves in a different direction and is a wonderful “tutorial” about tuning forks and their history. You may recall that Dan did an article several years ago on the acoustics of baseball and softball bats. The current article is equally interesting and provides wonderful insight into a device we all know, as well as a discussion of how they work.

In the sixth article, Benjamin V. Tucker and Richard Wright provide fascinating insight into how human languages exploit the sound-producing potential of the human vocal tract efficiently to produce a wide variety of speech sounds.

The final article by Edward Walsh and JoAnn McGee explores hearing but from the perspective of evolution. The article delves into hearing specializations in two very interesting species. I particularly want to point out the photograph in Figure 5 of this article (page 70), suggesting that JoAnn and Ed work with what may be the most dangerous species that any member of the ASA has worked with!

This issue also has a number of very different *Sound Perspectives* essays. As usual, our first one is “Ask an Acoustician.” This essay features Subha Maruvada, an acoustics engineer with the US Food and Drug Administration. Interestingly, Subha is not only a very accomplished acoustician, but she has a fascinating “other life” that many will find very interesting to learn about.

Two essays talk about other ASA publications. In the first, Charles C. Church, editor of *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America Express Letters (JASA-EL)*, talks about very important changes in that online journal. In the second, Kent L. Gee, Megan S. Ballard, and Helen Wall Murray describe the history of *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics (POMA)* and a change in leadership of the journal.

Another important ASA publication activity is ASA Books. ASA Books Committee Chair Mark Hamilton, in his essay, talks about the history of the committee. And, most important, Mark shares information about how to publish a book (either authored or edited) with the ASA Press.

These essays about the ASA are followed by an insightful discussion by Laura Kloepper about her experiences bringing her newborn son to scientific meetings. Laura provides personal insights into the issues she faced as

well as guidance for how other parents might attend meetings with a young child.

Related to this is an essay from the Women in Acoustics group, written by Tracianne Neilsen and Alison Stimpert. Traci and Allison discuss what they call work-parenting “harmony” and share some important ideas that should be of interest to all members.

The final essay is by my friend Lenny Rudow. Lenny is not an acoustician but a renowned writer about all things related to sport fishing and boating. I met Lenny several years ago when he contacted me to learn how human-generated sound, such as those produced by a fisherman playing loud music on his boat, might affect catch rate. In trying to answer Lenny and help him learn more about fish hearing and fish sounds, I realized that there are probably many members of the ASA who fish or have fished but have never thought about putting together their hobby and their profession as an acoustician. Thus, I invited Lenny to write this essay from the perspective of someone who does not do acoustics but who is concerned about sound. I do want to add, however, because there is a slight conflict of interest, that I had (and look forward to having again) a wonderful day fishing with Lenny on the Chesapeake Bay along with my grandson (picture) and other family members.

AT editor’s grandson fishing on the Chesapeake Bay with Lenny Rudow.

