



This is a very special issue of *Acoustics Today*. The whole issue is devoted to honoring one of the true giants of acoustics and of the Acoustical Society, Dr. Leo Beranek, on his 100th birthday. Indeed, when Bill

Cavanaugh and Carl Rosenberg suggested that we do this issue, the decision to do it was a “no brainer.” I thank Bill and Carl for this wonderful idea and for doing such a superlative job as guest editors and for bringing the idea to fruition.

While I’ve known of Dr. Beranek for decades, and actually interacted with elements of his legendary firm Bolt Beranek and Newman several times early in my career (for reasons I cannot now recall!), I knew very little about Dr. Beranek himself. As a consequence, I read and enjoyed each article as it was sent to me, and I discovered that Dr. Beranek is truly a multi-sided and fascinating scholar. His uncanny ability to focus on almost any of the diverse fields of acoustics is apparent from each of the six main essays and the thirty or so “sidebar” stories by friends, colleagues, former students, students of students, and the like. His ability to meet with the president of a somewhat hostile major builder of jet aircraft one day and later with major airport officials while his research teams were still measuring and trying to understand the complexities of the differences between the noise of conventional propeller aircraft and the new jet powered aircraft and their noise impacts on communities around airports is just one example of his ability to focus on the task at hand. It is clear from reading the various essays and sidebars that Dr. Beranek was multi-tasking long before the term was defined and the electronic tools like smart phones or tablet computers were available to facilitate the process.

I learned that Dr. Beranek has had numerous interests throughout his long and highly illustrious career. He has continually been at the forefront of advancing the state-of-the-art in concert hall acoustics. He has also been a major contributor to solving noise and vibration control engineering and criteria development issues in and around buildings, in communities and workplaces, and in air, land, and sea transportation vehicles. He has been a pioneer in bringing computers to the field of acoustics research and beyond, a stimulus to major developments in the origin of the internet,

and so much more. He has also been a ski instructor, heavily involved in running a television station, a philanthropist, and remarkable public citizen. Perhaps more significantly he is also revered as a mentor and colleague, and a prolific author of textbooks and technical papers.

In addition to all this, Dr. Beranek has also made contributions to the Acoustical Society of America and other professional groups that are legendary. Indeed, much of what ASA is today can be traced to Dr. Beranek’s leadership, organizational skills, and great wisdom.

So, I encourage you to read this issue “cover-to-cover” and to learn about a man who has had an impact on everyone in the field of acoustics and so much more. *Acoustics Today* is proud and delighted to be able to honor one of the most remarkable people in the history of our very broad field – a true giant of a scholar and human being.

Arthur N. Popper

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