



We very much appreciate feedback from ASA members about *Acoustics Today* and www.AcousticsToday.org. We particularly welcome and value new ideas about things

we can do to make the magazine and the web site even more interesting and useful.

“History” Papers for AT

I do want to share one of the suggestions I received recently from my friend (and former ASA president) Bill Yost. I’d asked Bill to consider doing an article for AT on psychoacoustics. Bill’s response was that he would like to do this, but he wanted to take an historical perspective and write about the history of the field. This led to discussions from which arose the idea that AT have a series of articles on the history of disciplines. The rationale is that many of us would benefit from not only knowing about a subject, but also developing an understanding of where modern ideas arose.

My personal observations (and that of numerous friends) are that many younger colleagues would benefit from knowing the early history of their fields since many of the earlier ideas and papers (e.g., before 1970) are exceptionally useful and provide insights that are not found in current work.

Indeed, about 15 years ago years I realized that my own doctoral students and postdocs had no idea of the early literature in our field (marine, and particularly fish, bioacoustics). So, we spent a year reading the older literature, starting as far back as Aristotle and Pliny the Elder. One of my postdocs started to call these “paleopapers” and the name stuck. What was interesting is that my students found that reading paleopapers was very enjoyable and invaluable, particularly when they discovered that many of the issues they were tackling now had been first discussed, with great insight, by investigators in the 1920’s to 1960’s.

So, I want to first thank Bill Yost for raising this idea and then to invite colleagues in ASA to consider writing a “history” of their discipline. This could be a broad field, such as marine bioacoustics, or something somewhat narrower like the article Bill will do for the summer 2015 issue of *Acoustics Today*. Furthermore, working with Bill, I have developed

some general guidelines for how to do this kind of paper. For example, history articles should focus on the major ideas and milestones in a field, they should primarily deal with material prior to around 1960 (though discussion of very formative articles up to about 1999 would be acceptable), they should consider the contributions of major historical contributors to the field, and, where possible, highlight the work of ASA members. More details about these papers can be found in our instructions to authors found at <http://acousticstoday.org/authors/#.VGDkEDTF8ko>.

If anyone is interested in doing this kind of article, please drop me a note and we can discuss your ideas.

AT Interns

Our first AT Intern, Laura Kloepper, has been focusing on social media. Laura keeps an active AT Twitter account going with really interesting material, and she took the lead in doing social media for the Indianapolis meeting. This included a very exciting session on Reddit where ASA members from Laura’s own field, animal bioacoustics, spent several hours answering dozens of questions from the public, and the session was observed by several thousand individuals. This was, as we can all appreciate, good for our field and for ASA. I want to thank Laura for taking the lead in social media for AT (and making significant contributions to ASA as well). We understand that several other Technical Committees are already thinking of doing Reddit sessions at future ASA meetings, and we are very pleased that AT could help initiate this start of a strong ASA foray into social media.

I want to again put in a “plug” for additional AT interns. If you speak with Laura you will discover that she has really gotten a lot out of her experience as our first intern. She has had the opportunity to learn a good deal about publishing and her ASA network of acquaintances has grown substantially. And, very importantly, Laura continues to make invaluable contributions to AT and to ASA.

I would hope that Laura’s experience will prompt other people to consider becoming interns. The position is not very time consuming, and we work with the interns to ensure that they get to do “jobs” that appeal to them and for which they can learn a good deal and also contribute in meaningful ways to ASA. In return, interns get a small

stipend at the end of their year, and they get free registration at meetings they attend while they are in the position. AT Interns also have their name on our masthead and are invited to attend, and participate in, AT Advisory Committee meetings. Interns are advanced graduate students or early career people within three years of their terminal degrees, but we are most willing to be a bit flexible in requirements if the opportunity would benefit ASA and the person. If you are interested in exploring being an intern drop me a note and we can discuss ideas. And, you can find out more about being an AT intern, and see the application, at <http://wp.me/P4zu0b-IH>.

This Issue

I hope that everyone will enjoy the articles in this issue of AT. Without specific planning, three of the articles deal with underwater sound in various ways. These include a very interesting piece on underwater noise standards by Michael Ainslie, and Michael also considers how one might do a sonar study of a distant moon. Underwater ambient noise, a topic of particular interest to me, is discussed by David L. Bradley (former ASA president) and Stephen M. Nichols. Their article provides insight into measuring low frequency ambient noise in the oceans, a project that grew out of approaches to detecting nuclear tests. David Burnett does the third underwater paper with a discussion of how one can use acoustic scattering to find objects at the bottom of the ocean. Coincidentally, this issue's Technical Committee report is on acoustical oceanography.

The fourth paper in this issue is on acoustic cloaking by Andrew Norris. When I first read the article I was not sure what was meant by acoustic cloaking, but then I realized that cloaking is what the Romulans used to hide their space ships in Star Trek, and so I started to see the fascinating implications of the work discussed in this article.

Finally, I was very pleased that Leo Beranek, the honoree of our fall issue (on his 100th birthday) agreed to write a short article for this issue. It was an honor for me to meet Dr. Beranek at the Indianapolis meeting, and I was delighted to hear him speak about his work and to learn more about his amazing career.

Arthur N. Popper