

From the Editor

Arthur N. Popper



This issue of *Acoustics Today* (AT) has a “From the President” column and three “Sound Perspectives” essays that discuss how the COVID pandemic has affected members of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) and the Society itself. In her last column as ASA president, Diane Kewley-Port discusses what must be the most stressful and “different” presidency in the history of the ASA because it required navigating the pandemic and keeping the Society functioning and serving its members. Diane, in her piece, talks about these issues and how the ASA met numerous challenges.

The first article by Murray Campbell, Joël Gilbert, and Arnold Myers is about the muting of musical horns. To get “in the mood,” I suggest that readers click on the first link in the article and listen to “Take the A Train” as they read. The article has a number of other wonderful multimedia, some of which are musical demonstrations by the authors. Then, when you get near the end of the article, click on the link to Miles Davis and enjoy the music as you read. (As an aside, I am quite partial to the “A train” because it ran right by our apartment in very far uptown Manhattan¹ (New York City) when I was growing up and I knew the line very well!)

Our second article is by linguist Ettien Koffi. Ettien discusses the thousands of languages that have disappeared or are disappearing due to limited use. These are all around the world, and Ettien shares ideas on how to preserve these precious parts of various heritages.

A few years ago, I attended a session at an ASA meeting and heard a talk by doctoral student Maggie Raboin. Maggie talked about the potential effects of anthropogenic (man-made) sound on terrestrial insects. I’d never really thought about anthropogenic sound and insects before so I found the topic so interesting that I invited Maggie to write an article. As you will see, Maggie makes

¹ If any other ASA member is from Washington Heights or Inwood, drop me a line.

it clear that many of the issues that we think about regarding anthropogenic sound and vertebrates (including humans) are also issues for insects.

In the fourth article, Frederik J. Simons, Joel D. Simon, and Sirawich Pipatprathanporn discuss seismological studies of the Earth. They point out that to really understand seismology on a global scale, it is imperative to have receivers not only on land but also at sea. The authors discuss these marine seismic devices, focusing on the development of different generations of receivers. Put another way, the focus is on device evolution.

In the fifth article, Brandon L. Southall brings us up-to-date on the latest thinking about anthropogenic sound and marine mammals. The article focuses on the evolution of the ideas that have led to the current thinking on how to deal with the potential effects of man-made sound on marine mammals. It also points out the very substantial gaps in our understanding of marine mammal bioacoustics.

The final article is by Timothy K. Stanton, Wu-Jung Lee, and Kyungmin Baik. The authors consider how one goes about extracting information from echoes that are used to do everything from imaging unborn babies to radar analysis of potential tornadoes. It turns out that there is great commonality in the approaches to the analysis of all such signals in order to get meaningful information. The authors provide great insight into this analysis.

“Ask an Acoustician” features Efrén Fernández-Grande, a Spanish engineer who lives and teaches in Denmark. Efrén is very involved in research and teaching and balances all of that with considerable involvement with the ASA. This is followed by an essay by L. Keeta Jones, education and outreach coordinator of the ASA. Keeta shares how she developed a host of interesting ways to keep up the involvement of the ASA in education and outreach during the pandemic.

We then have two essays about how the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has impacted ASA members. The first is by ASA Student Council (SC) members Hilary Kates Varghese, Kieren H. McCord, Mallory Morgan, and Elizabeth Weidner,

and the second is by ASA Women in Acoustics (WIA) members Tracianne B. Neilsen and Bonnie K. Lau. Both the WIA and SC are concerned with how the pandemic has redefined daily work and life circumstances for ASA members around the world. To understand this impact, each group, independently, surveyed ASA members about how they have been affected by the pandemic. Together, they received over 950 responses from ASA members at different career stages.

The two essays discuss key findings from each survey and make clear how our members have been affected. Although it is still uncertain what the recovery will look like, this large response shows that many ASA members would like to share their unique experiences. A longer version of the essay by Neilsen and Lau is available at bit.ly/2PRNwhY.

AT Contest

The Spring 2021 issue of *AT* had a small advertisement from ASA Fellow Neil Shaw who wants to give away his 1,000-volume library on acoustics, mathematics, and related areas. Many of the books are rare volumes, and Neil will be writing an essay for *AT* about his library. Neal asked to put the ad in Latin.

The Latin statement, which appeared on page 68, was “*Magna bibliotheca librorum ad porus acusticus, sonus, vibrationis et investigationis related subditis praesto ad occasum vel academicis. Et mitte nuntius cum nomen in institutione CCCX DCCCXC (IX)DCCCLXVI.*”

We then decided to have a small contest in which we asked ASA members to provide a translation of the statement, with a small gift card going to the winner. I asked Neil to provide the correct translation which was: “Large library of books related to acoustic, sound, vibration, and related subjects available to a research or academic setting. Send message with your name and institution to...”

We had eight entries and the winner was decided by a panel of judges. In case of a tie, the answer with the earliest e-mail would win. The winner was Xinyu Zhang, a graduate student in phonetics at the University of Amsterdam. Xinyu learned of the contest via the ASA Twitter feed.

Introducing Advertorials

This issue has something new for *AT* but rather old in the advertising world, an “advertorial” ([page 40](#)). Advertorials are informative articles written and paid for by an advertiser.

We have decided to include a limited number of advertorials in *AT* because they add valuable income to help support the publication of *AT* as well inform members about ideas and products that could not appear in a regular advertisement. The *AT* advertorial policy strictly limits the nature of the content, and all advertorials will be reviewed by myself and a member of the ASA who is an expert on the subject. If any member has any thoughts about having an advertorial, please drop me a note. And it is important to understand that in no case does the ASA or *AT* endorse the content of any advertorial.

AT Intern

We are seeking an intern to work with the editor and staff of *AT* for a one-year period starting on or after September 1, 2021. Internships provide opportunities for a current graduate student or early professional member of ASA in any area of acoustics to contribute to the magazine and gain mentored experience in writing or other magazine activities. Past interns have developed social media, written articles that have appeared in *AT*, and developed interesting and important contributions for the *AT* website. For further information, see the intern advertisement on page 69 of this issue. If interested in learning more and discussing the options, please contact me (apopper@umd.edu).

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