

From the Editor

Arthur N. Popper



“AT Collections”

In the last issue of *Acoustics Today* (AT), I introduced a new feature of the magazine and web page called “AT Collections” (available at acousticstoday.org/ATcollections). The goal of “AT Collections” is to bring together articles on specific topics from past issues of AT and make them available to individuals, classes, and organizations interested in learning about acoustics-related topics. Please visit “AT Collections” and see our initial topics.

I look forward to increasing the number of topics covered in “AT Collections” and invite readers to create and curate new *Collections* pages. That is, if anyone would like a collection for use in a particular course or work use or is just interested in putting together a page on a topic that is of particular interest, drop me an email (apopper@umd.edu) and I’ll send you the simple form to list the URLs of the articles you’d like to include. I’ll take it from there.

About This Issue

This issue starts with an article by Allison B. Coffin about communicating science. Alli got interested in science communication when she was a graduate student (Full disclosure: Alli was my doctoral student at the University of Maryland, College Park). She has continued to build on this interest to the point where she founded and leads a national program teaching scientists how to share their expertise and knowledge with diverse audiences. I strongly encourage every Acoustical Society of America (ASA) member to read and think about what Alli has to say. It will be applicable whether you are trying to explain your work to the CEO of your company, the president of your university, a reporter, or a parent.

In our second article, Gregory W. Lyons, Carl R. Hart, and Richard Raspet address another topic that I certainly have never thought about: the noise from the wind and the challenges this leads to when doing outdoor recording. The authors explain the source of the problems in

doing recordings and explore a range of solutions that are simple and very interesting.

Our third article is based on a special issue on lung ultrasound of *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* (JASA; see acousticstoday.org/jasa-lung-ultrasound). The topic is using ultrasound to examine the lung, and it is by Marie Muller and Libertario Demi. When I invited Libertario and Marie to write this article, I thought it would just be another in our series of articles on ultrasound (see bit.ly/AT-ultrasound), but what I learned is that doing lung ultrasound is totally different from that of any other organ. The authors highlight the fascinating challenges in examining a tissue that combines fluid with tiny air pockets and help us understand the value of solving these challenges for human health.

In the fourth article, Vladimir E. Ostashev, D. Keith Wilson, and John A. Colosi discuss wave propagation in random media. They show how the ways to appreciate propagation is not restricted to one media but can be applied to studies of everything from the atmosphere to seismology to medical ultrasound to remote sensing.

The fifth article by Marie A. Roch, Peter Gerstoft, Bozena Kostek, and Zoi-Heleni Michalopoulou explores machine learning and is also based on a special issue of JASA (see acousticstoday.org/JASA-machine-learning). Although the article focuses on using machine learning in acoustics, it is really a great introduction to machine learning in general and a “must read” for anyone curious about the subject.

The articles are then followed by our essay section — “Sound Perspectives.” Indeed, this issue introduces a new idea for “Sound Perspectives,” Featured Perspectives. Featured Perspectives will appear from time to time. They will be extended essays that are on topics of particular value and interest to members of the ASA but that are rather different from regular articles in AT.

Our first Featured Perspectives is by James H. Miller, John A. Colosi, Timothy F. Duda, and James F. Lynch. The essay is a conversation with ASA Editor in Chief Jim

Lynch about ASA publications and particularly about our flagship publication, *JASA*. The first three authors developed the questions and edited the responses from Jim. In the essay, Jim provides great insight into *JASA* as well as into broader issues of impact factors, open access, and others that are important to people who publish in scholarly journals.

The second “Sound Perspectives” is “Ask an Acoustician,” this time featuring an interview with Lily Wang. Although most members of ASA will remember Lily as ASA president and for her numerous contributions to the Society, members may not be aware of her very active life outside the ASA.

The third essay is not by an ASA member; rather, it is by high-school student, Brooke Dougherty. Brooke wrote me several months ago asking about *AT* and describing the development of her interests in acoustics. Sharing this with several ASA colleagues, it was clear that Brooke not only writes very well but that she is a wonderful example of someone with an abiding interest in our field who is sure to be a future contributor and, hopefully, an active member of ASA. I thought that readers would be interested in “meeting” this 12th grader. (And note to readers who help recruit undergraduates, Brooke is deciding where to go to college.) As an aside, Brooke is the youngest person to ever publish in *AT* and perhaps in any ASA publication. She had to have her parents sign the copyright transfer form because she is too young to sign agreements!

The fourth essay is by Michael Haberman, chair of the Engineering Acoustics Technical Committee (TC). Mike provides a very compelling introduction to the TC; until I read this, I did not really have an appreciation of the breadth of the TC or how its interests reach out across virtually all of the ASA. Besides being in print, the essay will join the “*AT* Collections” group of essays from all other TCs (see <https://bit.ly/AT-TC>).

I suspect that most members of the ASA are not aware of the ASA regional chapter “Spanish-Speaking Acousticians of the Americas” (SSA). This growing group, described by Zachery O. L’Italien, Fernando del Solar Dorrego, Ana M. Jaramillo, and Mariana Botero, is doing a wide range of things to foster interactions between the ASA and its Hispanic members. Moreover, they are

reaching out to other ASA members in Latin America, the United States, and other countries with Hispanic roots (even if not Spanish speaking) to join the group.

This past November was the 20th anniversary of the founding of the website Discovery of Sound in the Sea (DOSITS; see www.dosits.org). In our final essay, Gail Scowcroft, one of the founders and leaders of DOSITS talks about the history of the website. DOSITS is an exceptional example of how to teach acoustics, from crossing the lines of all the TCs to a very broad international audience from students to regulators to reporters to scholars. Gail notes, among other things, that many members of the ASA have been, and continue to be, engaged with DOSITS and help make it an authoritative place to learn acoustics. (Full disclosure: I have the honor to be on the DOSITS scientific advisory group, and many other members of the ASA now, or in the past, have served as advisors.)

In ending, I want to again invite everyone to look at “*AT* Collections” and make use of it as appropriate. I’d like to hear if you have found some special ways to use the collections, and I invite readers to develop their own collection for inclusion on the web page.



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