

From the Editor

Arthur N. Popper



This issue of *Acoustics Today* (AT) introduces a new series of “Sound Perspectives” essays, “Conversation with a Colleague” (CwC). Edited by AT Associate Editor Micheal Dent,

CwC focuses on mid- and senior-career Acoustical Society of America (ASA) members who have made a substantial contribution to their field. The individuals may be from academia, industry, and/or government.

The purpose of CwC is to introduce the broad ASA audience to leaders in acoustics and to teach about diverse areas of the discipline. CwC essays will be shorter and much more informal than articles in AT. Most importantly, and unlike regular articles, the essays will focus on the contributions of a single person rather than on a broader field. We also want to “drive” CwC essays to have roughly the same information, and so our colleagues will be asked to answer a specific set of “prompts” in their responses.

We plan on one essay for each issue of AT, with the goal of representing each technical committee (TC) at least once in the next three years. To do this, we will invite each TC to nominate two or three people as potential participants in the series. The individual will be selected by the AT editor and associate editor, with a focus on topics that, hopefully, will be of interest to the broad ASA membership.

Normally, I do not discuss our regular “From the President” article, but I do want to remind readers to look at it and also a special “Sound Perspectives” essay by ASA Executive Director Susan E. Fox. In her last column as president of the ASA, Maureen Stone talks about some of the history of the ASA and ties it nicely to its future. As part of the essay, Maureen shares several links to the first issue of *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* (JASA). This is great fun to look at!

In the first article, Mitra Aliabouzar and Mario Fabiilli discuss the healing of wounds and how bubbles can be used to help build tissues in the body. They demonstrate that these bubbles, which are used for building new blood vessels, can be controlled using ultrasound, giving us another way

in which ultrasound is used in biomedical applications. (For additional biomedical applications of ultrasound, see “AT Collections” at tinyurl.com/mtmturra.)

The second article by Daniel Butko focuses on education in acoustics, with a discussion of the approaches he uses in teaching architectural acoustics. Dan’s approaches are quite interesting, and they should be of value to for teaching most any STEM subject. Thus, I encourage everyone who teaches, both formally or informally, to take a look at this article.

The next article is by Erin Fischell who shares insight into how one might get “weird” data when doing underwater acoustic sensing. Erin makes it clear that one cannot just accept data as recorded but that it is imperative to be very careful in interpreting and understanding the data. Indeed, although the article focuses on underwater sound, the broader message is that no matter how we record data, it is important to ensure that there are no artifacts and that any artifacts are very well hidden and hard to figure out. (For other AT articles on underwater acoustics, see “AT Collections” at tinyurl.com/exppd4fd.)

I was quite surprised, in reading the fourth article by Susanne Fuchs and Aleksandra Ćwiek, that there are well over 4,000 extant languages. They share this information in the context of talking about relationships between language sounds and meaning. They also consider the evolution of language and make a case that vocal sounds are related to information about the meaning of the sounds from other sensory stimuli such as vision. (AT has many articles on language; see tinyurl.com/2p8rmdxz.)

Our fifth article, by Miriam A. Kolar, Carole Fritz, and Gilles Tosello, discusses music archaeology by focusing on the sounds from an 18,000-year-old conch shell that was found in a French cave. The authors share how they worked out that the shell is a musical instrument, and they discuss the relationships between the sounds of ancient instruments and the acoustics of the caves in which they have been found. (For more articles about archaeology and acoustics, see our “AT Collections” at tinyurl.com/4tcpf9ez.)

The final article by Barry B. Ma, Brian D. Dushaw, and Bruce M. Howe comes back to ocean noise, discussed in this issue in the article by Erin Fischell. The article by Ma et al. discusses measuring the rainfall at sea. Before reading the article, I had never really thought about the value of rainfall over the oceans in understanding weather, and I certainly had no idea how rain would be measured when very far from shore.

The three “Sound Perspectives” essays are of real interest. The first one is the CwC essay by Joseph A. Sisneros at the University of Washington, Seattle. Joe is a member of the Animal Bioacoustics TC and does research in the general area of fish bioacoustics. To be fully open, Joe is a collaborator of mine, and it was therefore pretty easy to get him to be a “guinea pig” and work with Micheal and I as we developed the format and style for this series.

The second essay is by Susan E. Fox, executive director of the ASA. Susan starts her essay with a quote by one of the most famous doctors of all time, Theodor Seuss Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss). She uses this quote as the context in which to talk about some of the challenges that have been facing the ASA over the past years and outlines challenges to the ASA (and most all societies) for the near future. This, combined with Maureen’s essay, provide considerable food for thought for all ASA members, and I urge every member to read, and think about, the issues raised.

The third essay by Kathi Mestayer, Andrew Morrison, and Edward Richards focuses on social media and its use in acoustics. I readily admit that I have almost no knowledge of, or interest in, social media. Yet I have to admit that the authors, all members of the ASA Publications ad hoc social media Engagement Advisory Board, make a great case, even to me, as to how social media can enhance one’s work and help communicate not only with colleagues but also with a broader audience.

Finally, I want to share a picture of the two newest members of the ASA Publications family, both of whom have already discovered the value of reading *AT*. The young men are the sons of two people that are so very instrumental in making *AT* (and all of ASA publications) so excellent, Kat Setzer and Liz Bury.



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