As of the May 2018 meeting in Minneapolis I began my term as Chair for the Technical Committee for Noise. Many thanks to the past Chair, William J. Murphy, for his excellent leadership and enthusiasm the previous three years, as well as his continued assistance as I take over as Chair. Shortly after starting my term, Kieren Smith, who is pursuing her Ph.D. in Architectural Engineering Acoustics at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was selected among several candidates to act as the Student Council representative for TCNS. Her time as our representative was short as she was soon elected to Student Council Chair. However, her efficient and excellent support through the meetings in Victoria (November 2018) and Louisville (May 2019) was greatly appreciated. Her replacement is Aaron Vaughn, a physics graduate student at Brigham Young University. I welcome Aaron to the position and look forward to working with him in the future.

It has been a difficult year as we have seen the passing of several outstanding, long-time members of our committee. In no particular order: Angelo Campanella, Jiri Tichy, Richard Lyon, William Thornton, Larry Royster, and very recently William Cavanaugh; the latter of whom had just been honored as the 2019 recipient of the Gold Medal of the Acoustical Society of America at the Louisville meeting. The contributions to the Society, the field of acoustics, and the world in general that these people have made are too vast for words. They will be greatly missed by our members.

During 2018-19, the membership of the Technical Committee on Noise continues to be active in the Society and been honored to serve. David Woolworth was honored as Fellow in May 2018. Bennett Brooks was elected to the Executive Council. Scott Sommerfeldt was succeeded by Peggy Nelson as Vice President while Victor Sparrow succeeded Lily Wang as President of the Society. All have been active within TCNS through chairing sessions and helping to organize recent meetings.

TCNS has promoted the development of upcoming talent. This year marks the fourth year of the Leo and Gabriela Beranek Scholarship in Architectural Acoustics and Noise Control. This year’s recipient is Kevin Leete who is pursuing his Ph.D. in Physics and Astronomy/Physics at Brigham Young University. TCNS member Kent Gee is Kevin’s advisor. Kevin received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in the same field. In addition, this year is the third year for the Virginia and Frank Winker Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Study in Acoustics. This year’s recipient is Colby Cushing who is pursuing a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at University of Texas at Austin. Colby is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, having earned his Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering. I encourage faculty at all universities to encourage students to apply for these two scholarships. I, along with the other members of the Beranek scholarship committee (Eric Reuter (TCAA Chair), Tony Hoover, Alex Case, Carl Rosenberg) and the Winker scholarship committee (Christopher Struck (ASA Standards Director), Eric Reuter (TCAA Chair), Gary Elko (alternate for Michael Haberman, Chair TCEA, who recused himself as an advisor for one of the applicants), and Daniel Russell have been privileged to review the applications of the students.
TCNS has honored several Young Investigators for the excellent papers that they have presented at the Victoria and Louisville meetings. In Victoria, three papers were honored for the Young Investigator Awards: Kristi M. Ward for “Investigating individual susceptibility to the detrimental effects of background noise and reverberation in simulated complex acoustic environments,” Sarah E. Yoho for “Relationship between perception of speech in noise and disordered speech: Influence of sensorineural hearing loss,” and Seonghun Im for “Characterization of laptop computer noise and vibration using nearfield acoustic holography.” In Louisville, the following three papers were honored for the Young Investigator Awards: Mylan R. Cook for “Improved automated classification of basketball crowd noise,” Jonathan R. Weber for “Quiet time impacts on the neonatal intensive care unit soundscape and patient outcomes,” and Gregory Scott Farber for “Soundprint and the ASA’s International Noise Awareness Day campaign - results, what worked, and going forward.” Congratulations to each of these young investigators.

The 176th meeting of the ASA was held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada (joint with 2018 Acoustics Week in Canada) with 7 TCNS-led sessions (two of them with two parts) and 86 papers presented. William Murphy, Hales Swift, and Kerrie Standlee served as the TPOM representatives. The 177th meeting of the ASA was held in Louisville, KY. At this meeting, 57 papers were presented in seven noise-led sessions. William Murphy, Hales Swift, and Kerrie Standlee also served as the TPOM representatives for the Louisville meeting. At both meetings, numerous other sessions were co-sponsored by TCNS.

Thanks to following people who have represented TCNS within the ASA during this time: Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp on the Medals and Awards Committee, Alex Case on the Membership Committee, Kieren Smith on Student Council, Rich Peppin on ASACOS (Committee on Standards), and Christopher Struck, Standards Chair. For the Young Investigator Award, James Phillips coordinated both the Victoria and Louisville meetings. The JASA Associate Editors for Noise are Giovanni Brambilla, Sanford Fidell, Kirill Horoshenkov, Yun Jing, Alexandra Lobeau, William Murphy, and Alan Wall. The JASA Express Letters Associate Editors for Noise are Eddie Lau, Alexandra Lobeau, and Tracieanne Neilson. The Editor for the Proceedings of Meetings in Acoustics is Kent Gee with Alan Wall serving as associate editor.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of TCNS for their participation and enthusiasm this past year, making my role as Chair an enjoyable experience. My apologies to anyone whose contribution I may have overlooked in the above report. Please don’t hesitate to let me know if I did. I look forward to continuing to serve as your Chair.

James E. Phillips, Chair
Technical Committee on Noise