

# Monthly Newsletter

Issue No. 1 | September 2021



Students (including the first years!) and ASA board members at the first ASA student meeting

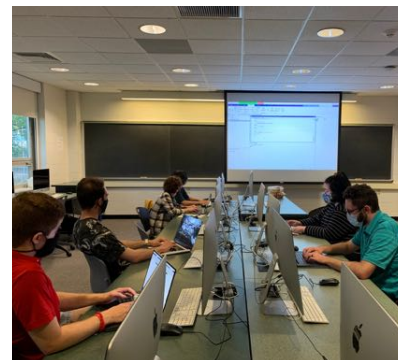
## MATLAB Boot Camp

PSU ASA's first event of the year was MATLAB Boot Camp for the first years! The two sessions took place on August 25th and 27th.

The first session had Peter (Vice President) walking through MATLAB basics, and students attempting to complete the Mandelbrot set.

The second session had Jack (President) and Matt (Treasurer) going over functions, organization methods, and other MATLAB tools and tips.

If you could not attend the sessions and would like to have **access to the recordings and programs**, please let us know! We'll send you a link with all the files. (:



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# Past & Upcoming Events

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## ASA First General Meeting

On Thursday, September 9th, PSU ASA had the first general student meeting in Hammond room 209. The event kicked off with brief introductions from everyone attending, including the first years. Then Jack (President) introduced ASA and the biannual conferences, followed by other board members and upperclassmen explaining what happens at an ASA conference and more.



Students gathered around to play giant Jenga and Monikers

After a brief general Q&A session, students formed groups to play different games, such as giant Jenga, Monikers, and Uno. Students not playing games got together to talk about school, research, life, and more! Everyone left with some candy!



Students playing Uno and having conversations

The event had excellent attendance - thank you everyone for coming! It was super nice to finally get to see and talk to everyone in-person.

PSU ASA will have **monthly student meetings**, on the **first Thursdays** of each month. The meetings will take place in **Hammond room 209** (the same room!) at **5 pm**.

Hope to see you all there!

## Future Event: Mid-October Hike?

PSU ASA is planning on having a hike around mid-October! It will be an easy hike, and more details will be sent soon once closer to the date (weather pending).

Everyone (significant others, pets, snacks, etc) are welcome!

## Suggestions?

if you have any suggestions for events, guest speakers, and more, please feel free to reach out to any of the board members! We'd love to hear from you, and to hold events that the students want (:

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# Meet the Board Members

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## Jack Case, President



John (Jack) Case is a third year Ph.D. student in the Graduate Program in Acoustics here at Penn State. He graduated from the University of Hartford with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, class of 2019. He is currently studying photoacoustic aerosol characterization in the Applied Research Laboratory.

In his free time, he likes to play keyboard for his band, cook, do photography, and hike.

## Peter Riccardi, Vice President



Peter Riccardi is a mechanical and electrical engineering graduate from Rowan University class of 2018 with a strong background in electronics and electromechanical design. He is passionate about audio engineering; particularly low-noise analog electronics ranging from turntable preamplifiers to high power amps and loudspeaker development. During his time as an engineering technologist at Rowan University, he developed niche interests in automated test setups as well as studying the effect of HMI's on the perception of quality when analyzing product designs. Outside of Penn State, Peter runs two small businesses in engineering consulting and ecommerce, enjoys training for marathons and backpacking excursions, and exploring the world of cooking, baking, and brewing.

## Matthew Luu, Treasurer



Matthew Luu graduated from California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, class of 2020. Acoustics is a fascinating subject to him because it involves many disciplines to develop specific products within the engineering field. His research involves optimization work for computational acoustics problems. The primary focus is speeding the process up to design certain vibrational systems using computational acoustic techniques. In his free time he likes to bake, ice skate, play piano, practice random forms of art, and sleep.

## Olivia Park, Secretary



Olivia Heui Young Park graduated from the Cooper Union with both B.E. and M.E. in mechanical engineering, class of 2020. She loves acoustics as it's a combination of her two passions - music & engineering. She is particularly interested in the subjective impression of room acoustics & the impact of noise on cognition as it adds the "human" factor to acoustics. She is currently a 2nd year PhD student in SPRAL (Sound Perception Room Acoustics Laboratory). She likes to bake, run, sing, and play her instruments in her free time, and adores succulents.

# Meet the Board Members

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## Emma Shaw, Outreach Coord



Emma Shaw is from the Metro Atlanta area and graduated with a B.S. in physics from Agnes Scott College in 2020. She has a strong interest in airplanes and currently works in Dr. Sparrow's research group on computationally modeling aircraft noise. She also is very interested in pedagogy, which is what drew her to the outreach coordinator position. In her free time, you can likely find her reading, engaging with some type of music (mostly listening, sometimes playing), watching or talking about Star Trek, or looking up recipes that she may or may not actually make someday.

## Matt Slaughter, Webmaster



Matt Slaughter graduated from Oberlin Conservatory of Music (2013) with a B.M. in Flute Performance. He then moved to New Orleans where he started working and taking pre- requisites for Penn State's Graduate Program in Acoustics at the University of New Orleans. He recently moved to Portland, Oregon (where he grew up) to spend more time with his family. Matt is currently a second year Distance Education Student pursuing an M.Eng in Acoustical Engineering. In his spare time Matt enjoys rock climbing, chess, and playing the flute.

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## Eric Rokni, Chapter Rep



Eric Rokni is currently a 4th year PhD candidate working in the Biomedical Acoustics Simon Laboratory (BASiL). He received his undergraduate degree from Rollins College in 2018 in both physics and music performance. Since that time, Eric has served on the national ASA student council as the Musical Acoustics TC rep and as President of our local ASA chapter. In his free time, he enjoys performing cello, playing tennis, and rooting for his hometown Wisconsin sports teams!

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# Letter from the President

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**Hello everyone,**

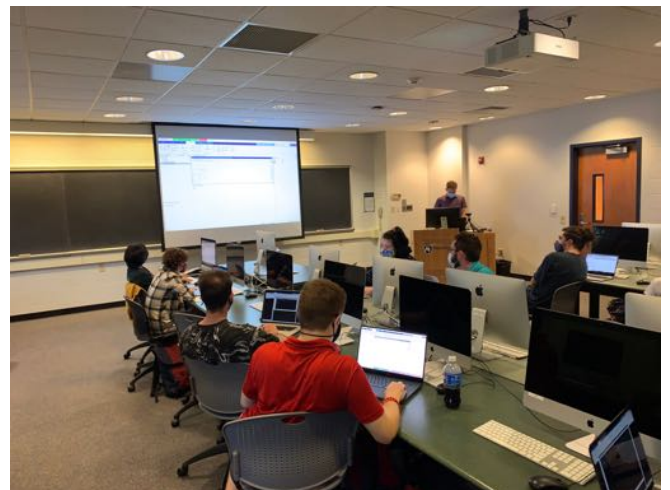
I am excited to welcome the new cohort and returning students to a new school year! The Penn State Chapter of ASA has always been one of the more active student chapters, and I am confident that we will continue this tradition. So far, we have had two successful events: our MATLAB Boot Camp for incoming students and our first general student meeting. If either of these events are telling of things to come, this year is going to be one of the most well attended years for PSU ASA in recent history!

Despite the challenges that the pandemic has provided, we have some great events planned for the year. We have several outreach videos, outreach events, industry talks, site visits and general social events all in planning as we speak. We are also planning an 'Introduction to LaTeX' Boot Camp within the next couple of months that will provide some simple insight into starting out with LaTeX, as well as how to use the LaTeX thesis template. These events will hopefully be a good mix of fun, professional development, and community engagement.

We also currently have a number of students attending and presenting at the Seattle ASA Meeting in November 2021, and even more planning to attend the Denver ASA Meeting in May 2022. I am looking forward to seeing the wide range of research that our members have been working on.

I would also like to give a sincere 'thank you' to the rest of the ASA Board — Peter, Olivia, Matthew L., Emma, Matthew S., and Eric. The upcoming events would not be possible without you. I am excited to see what this year will bring, and I look forward to getting to know everyone throughout the year!

Best,  
Jack Case



**To our Alumni,**

Thank you to our alumni!

We'd love to keep in touch with you, and hopefully our monthly newsletters are a way to give updates on what's going on with the PSU ASA chapter.

Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you'd like to come in for a talk, for recruiting, and more! We'd love staying connected with all of you.

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# Community Updates

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## Concert Hall Acoustics Study

Researchers in the Graduate Program in Acoustics are looking for participants for a study related to *concert hall acoustics*. The experiment will take approximately *75-90 minutes* of your time. The test will consist of listening excerpts of classical music with changes in *reverberation*. You will be asked to indicate if you perceive a difference between the musical excerpts in terms of reverberance. The signals will be played at a controlled volume. The compensation for your voluntary participation is \$20 (in the form of a gift card) and a chance to win a \$100 gift card (odds are about 1 in 35).

In order to participate you must:

- 1) Be 18 years of age or older
- 2) Have a hearing threshold of 15 dB HL or better (this will be assessed at the start of your testing time)
- 3) Have a minimum of 5 years of formal musical training (i.e. private music lessons, a combination of ensemble and private lessons, etc.) and be currently musically active (i.e. taking formal lessons).

Please contact me at [spral.chacoustics@gmail.com](mailto:spral.chacoustics@gmail.com) if you would like more information or have any other questions. Thanks!

Best wishes,  
Fernando del Solar Dorrego

## TackyTechTees

TackyTechTees is an ecommerce platform started by Peter Riccardi – a resident acoustics student here at PSU and currently serving on the ASA board as vice president. TackyTechTees provides affordable, comfortable, graphic apparel to those interested in STEM and related fields. Feel free to subscribe to their newsletter for information regarding the upcoming holiday ecommerce season as new products will be launching regularly! Not a bad idea for gifts this winter!

<https://www.tackytechtees.com/>



*this one is the editor's personal favorite*

If you have anything that'd you'd like to add to the "Community Updates" section, feel free to email Olivia at [hkp5188@psu.edu](mailto:hkp5188@psu.edu) or [OliviaHeuiYoungPark@psu.edu](mailto:OliviaHeuiYoungPark@psu.edu)! we'd love to include it if we can (:

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