

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Happy Fall, TAASLP members! I hope that you have had a blessed, relaxing, and enjoyable summer and are gearing up for the upcoming convention.

What has TAASLP accomplished so far this year? Here are a few things in which we have been proactively engaged. We have continued to work toward eliminating the professional privilege tax, and we have worked on other legislative issues. We also have been working on ways to increase our membership to give our profession an even larger voice in the State of Tennessee. This year we have also updated our website to a more user-friendly platform. If you haven't visited in a while, I suggest you take a look, www.taaslp.org Thanks to everyone who had a hand in making our website great!!

We also have been preparing for our favorite time of year...Convention 2018! We have an informative and exciting lineup of speakers, thanks to those who have worked very hard to plan. Every year the convention gets better and better, and this year is no exception. We owe a huge thanks to everyone involved in this capacity.

If you would like to be more involved with TAASLP, we would love to have some extra help. We have open positions on the Executive Council that need to be filled. We always need help with legislative actions, convention, and other activities. Please contact any member of the Executive Council for more information. We are looking forward to seeing you in October!

As my presidential term comes to a close, I want to thank each and every member for your ongoing support, and I especially want to thank the members of the EC board for the hard work and diligence toward making our association great! Alison Kempf will soon be taking charge as President of the association. I am excited to see what she will accomplish in her upcoming term.

Alyssa Conger, M.S. CCC-SLP
President
TAASLP

Convention



Calling all Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists, and students! The **26th Annual Joint Convention of the Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists (TAASLP) and the Tennessee Academy of Audiology (TAA)**, is right around the corner – Thursday, October 18th & Friday, October 19th. We'll be back in Murfreesboro, TN this year, at the ever popular Embassy Suites. With something for everyone in Murfreesboro, TN, the foodies, history buffs, nature lovers, and shoppers can all find something they'll love. Plus, the ever growing and popular Nashville, TN is just a short 35 minute drive away for your post-Convention activities, or if you want to make a long weekend out of your time at Convention!

Your two days at Convention will be filled with diverse and thought-provoking **breakout and featured speaker sessions**, and numerous opportunities to network, visit our vendors, and catch up with friends and colleagues. We will continue traditions of the **Exhibitor's Reception**, where you can enjoy hors d'oeuvres and meet old and new friends. We will also continue to have EBS Healthcare host our **Spirit Competition and College Bowl Challenge** immediately following the Exhibitor's Reception. Don't forget to wear your school colors and come cheer on the next generation Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists as student teams from across the state battle it out for ultimate academic bragging rights! This year, TAASLP Foundation will be taking over the **silent auction** and adding their spin to it, so consider taking part in their fundraising efforts to support things like their student scholarships. We hope you'll join us in October at Convention!

Questions?

Contact: Convention@tasslp.org

We look forward to seeing YOU in October!



Full Registration (Th/Fr)		
	Early Rate	After Sept. 30 th
TAASLP/ TAA Member	\$275	\$315
Non-Member	\$385	\$425
Student	\$85	\$85

1 Day Registration (Th or Fr)		
	Early Rate	After Sept. 30 th
TAASLP/ TAA Member	\$190	\$230
Non-Member	\$275	\$340
Student	\$65	\$65

Award Nominations for Convention

Do you know someone deserving of a TAASLP Award? Please review the following information and take a few moments to reflect upon each and whether you know of someone deserving of such an honor. If you wish to nominate someone, please nominate by midnight on September 30, 2018. Please send your nominations to Becky Brown at mal@taaslp.org

- **Honors of the Association:** Honors of the Association may be awarded to members for outstanding service to the Association, outstanding contributions towards the purposes of the Association, or outstanding service to persons with speech, language or hearing disorders.
- **Distinguished Service Award (DSA):** The Distinguished Service Award of the Association may be awarded to a member or non-member individual(s) or group(s) residing in the state of Tennessee for significant contributions to speech, language, and hearing on a statewide and/or national basis.
- **Public School Incentive Award (PSIA):** The Public School Incentive Award may be awarded to individual TAASLP member(s) or member(s) in a public school system for providing innovation or exceptional communication services to school-age children.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** This award is presented to a member who has made significant contributions to the professions, over a lifetime. The contributions do not have to necessarily be to the Association.

Thank you,

Becky Brown, M.S., CCC/SLP
Member At Large
mal@taaslp.org

Legislative and Advocacy Update

Brittany Day, AuD, CCC-A
Vice President of Legislative Affairs
advocacy@taaslp.org

Speech Language Pathologist Clinical Fellow Licensure

On August 7th the Board of Communication Disorders and Science considered a lengthy set of draft rule changes, including a change which will allow SLP Clinical Fellows in the state of Tennessee to obtain a provisional license rather than merely registration with the state. When implemented, this change will have the effect of allowing Medicare and private insurance reimbursement for the services provided by Clinical Fellows. The changes were approved by the Board and must be reviewed by three Health Department attorneys before the rulemaking hearing date is set, which will hopefully be in the next few months. Enormous credit goes to Julie Anne Davis, who as an SLP and Board member has kept the process moving over the past couple of years. Way to go, Julie Anne!

School-Based Speech Language Pathologist Caseload/Workload Caps

TAASLP is working closely with Susan Usery, Speech-Language and Related Services Coordinator with the Tennessee Department of Education to examine caseload data for school-based SLPs. Currently, other state models are being reviewed while data is being collected in the state of Tennessee. A survey has been drafted and will go out in the SPED directors update and the SLP newsletter to attempt to obtain a snapshot of the current landscape here in Tennessee. Susan will give a brief overview and will be available for questions during lunch on Friday at the TAASLP Convention in October.

Professional Privilege Tax

Keep contacting those legislators! In the coming weeks, TAASLP hopes to arrange with the Tennessee Gubernatorial candidates, Bill Lee and Karl Dean, to discuss the Professional Privilege.

Program Spotlight:



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Kathleen O'Neal
TAASLP Student Representative
student@taaslp.org

Located in Johnson City, Tennessee, East Tennessee State University (ETSU) offers prospective students a master's degree in speech-language pathology (M.S. SLP) and a clinical doctoral degree in audiology (AuD) through the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. The Master of Science in Speech-Language-Pathology at ETSU is an accredited 2 year program focusing on the diagnosis, treatment, and research of communicative disorders in children and adults.

While ETSU does not house research doctoral programs in speech-language pathology, it offers speech-language pathology graduate students different opportunities to gain research experience. Students are required to conduct team research projects in the CDIS 5400 Research Methods class and have the option of enrolling for a master's thesis guided by a faculty advisor and a thesis committee as their Capstone Experience. Graduate assistants and Tuition Scholarship students can also become involved in faculty research labs, such as the Recast Study Laboratory, the Speech Sound Disorders Laboratory and the Voice Laboratory within the speech-language pathology program. Audiology students conduct Capstone research projects and can gain research experience through involvement in the Applied Hearing Science Laboratory, Vestibular/Balance Laboratory, Audiologic Rehabilitation Laboratory, or the Hearing Aid Research Laboratory and the newly-established Eye Tracking and Listening Effort Laboratory. Student projects in both speech-language pathology and audiology programs are presented at conferences across the nation.

The clinic placements available to graduate students in the speech-language pathology program are both on-site at ETSU and the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center, as well as at off-campus clinics. On-campus clinics include the NAVE Language Center, which acts as a program for children with pragmatic language needs, like those stemming from an autism spectrum disorder. The NAVE Language Center also houses the Positive Eating Program, in place to address feeding difficulties that are behavioral or sensory in nature. More examples of clinical placements include the interprofessional Neonatal Intensive Care High Risk Follow-Up Clinic, which provides students with the opportunity to participate in early communication screenings of infants who were treated in the neonatal intensive care unit, and the Crumley House Clinic, which focuses on the treatment of individuals who have sustained traumatic brain injuries. With the return of football at ETSU, the Concussion Management Clinic was established for the screening of all campus athletes and provision of concussion management. Additional on-campus clinic placements include the Adult Speech & Language Clinic, School Age Speech & Language Clinic, Voice Clinic, Fluency Clinic, Johnson City Community Health Clinic, and Social Group Clinic. The VA campus offers student experiences relating to individuals with tracheotomies, voice disorders, motor speech disorders, aphasia, and dysphagia, including performing modified barium swallow imaging studies. There are also off-campus clinic placements available in nearby schools, health care centers, community clinics, and hospitals.

ETSU's audiology program partners with the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Mountain Home to provide students with clinical experiences in all areas of the field. The clinic placements available to students in the Doctor of Audiology program include the ETSU Adult Clinic, Pediatric Diagnostic Audiology Clinic, Pediatric Audiologic Habilitation Clinic, interprofessional Neonatal Intensive Care High Risk Follow-Up Clinic, Preschool Hearing Screening/Limited Diagnostic Clinics, Central Auditory Processing Evaluation for school-aged children, and Cochlear Implant Clinic, as well as a variety of off-campus placement options. Off-campus clinic placements allow audiology students additional opportunities to work with children and take place in community speech and hearing clinics, private practices, schools, and otolaryngology offices. Furthermore, opportunities in the areas of tinnitus, vestibular assessment, vestibular rehabilitation, hearing aid evaluations, and auditory electrophysiology, among others, are available to students through audiology clinics at the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Both programs participate in the interprofessional Vanderbilt Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disorders (LEND) grant and the ETSU health Science Center interprofessional training program.

In addition to local partnerships, students enrolled in programs at ETSU benefit from opportunities provided through international partnerships. Earlier this year, four speech-language pathology graduate students participated in an International Interprofessional Experience made possible by a partnership between ETSU's College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences and the University of Santa Paula in Costa Rica. In support of international experience and interprofessional relationships, the institutions sought to bring speech-language pathology and physical therapy services to an area near the University of Santa Paula where they are desperately needed. The resulting clinic experience involved graduate students traveling to Costa Rica and spending one week evaluating and providing therapy to people with a variety of conditions in a collaborative environment.

Overall, the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology at ETSU offers prospective students in both the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology valuable clinical and research opportunities!

Thank you to Dr. Brenda Louw for helping with the publishing of this school spotlight!



Gold Sponsors

Thank you so much for supporting TAASLP

