

Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists

TAASLP Semi-Annual Newsletter

Spring – Summer 2015 Edition

TAASLP *In Focus*

Spring-Summer 2015

SLPs & CEs
School-Based Opportunities!



Cumberland
Therapy Services



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PHONAK



life is on

Focus On Membership...

A Letter from the President...

TAASLP Members,

I want you to know that your representatives have been very busy. All the committees and officers give hours of their time protecting our practices and benefits for our consumers. Our organization is here for practicing speech-language pathologists, audiologists, speech sciences, educators in our field as well as our consumers. It is our job to assist you in protecting your practices and those forces that affect our consumers. We also strive to give you quality education through our convention and current information on our website. All the work except for our lobbyist is volunteer. We have tried to develop a committee for the schools for the past few years but have not been successful. The school program is a huge part of our convention and our issues. We are happy just to have some school SLPs who would give some thoughts and information. We need you! Please send in your name and email. We can tweet for you, facebook you or call you (a novel idea) but let us know what you need. Many thanks to Courtney Guthrie and Barb Jacobson for our Day on the Hill and the current blasts for the professional privilege tax. We were busy all morning. I cannot tell you how many offices that we visited but I would say 30-40. My feet hurt by the end of the morning. Sarah Grantham is working on our next convention in Chattanooga and it will be fun and brilliant!! You cannot imagine the hours that go into such a large event. However we should have a ball since Chattanooga is a great town and the hotel is incredible. Lastly, we need to thank Susan Amberg over and over for all she does for our profession. She is the Secretary-Treasurer but she does much more. Thanks Susan!! We want to hear from you and we also need some volunteers. Thanks for being a member!!

Best,
Susan A. Logan,
President



A Letter from the Vice President of Membership...

For me personally, 2014 brought in to focus the concept of my 'profession' over my 'job'. I am a Speech Pathologist. When someone asks me about my work, I say "I'm a Speech Pathologist". When someone asks me to tell them about myself, at some point in the conversation I say "I'm a Speech Pathologist". When I meet my patients and their families, I introduce myself by name and follow with "I'm a Speech Pathologist". Clearly, this is something that, in my own mind, is not just a job. It defines a part of me and how I see myself. When I became a TAASLP member and then an Executive Council member, I just felt it went with the 'job'. But over the last couple of years, in part by what I've learned and through the people I've met during my activities with TAASLP, my perspective on my role has shifted to thinking of my 'profession'.

We all lead busy lives; we have families, friends, hobbies, jobs and lots of places to be and things to do all at once. There are seasons to our lives, too, when sometimes a job is just a job and we don't feel we have an ounce of attention to spare to that job when we shut the door to the office at the end of the day. It's easy to forget that our chosen professions of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology are changing and evolving all the time, whether we have time to pay attention or not. For those of you that have been practicing for over 10 years, you can easily list at least 2 things that are vastly different today than they were 10 years ago. Technology. Demographics. Healthcare laws. Legislative changes to our scope of practice. These things are always in a state of flux.

Membership in TAASLP has given me the opportunity to see the legislative process. This is something to which I never gave a second thought. This process directly involves technology, healthcare, scope of practice, and, indirectly, our changing demographics. TAASLP keeps us informed and solicits our help to make an impact on State level legislation. We know that numbers speak volumes. ASHA and AAA have power in sheer numbers and this helps us on the national level. There are over 2000 licensed SLPs and Audiologists in the state of Tennessee and fewer than 50 who are voluntarily taking any active role in speaking on behalf of the whole.

TAASLP has been working diligently to mobilize the membership to help repeal the Professional Privilege Tax (PPT). The more of us there are, the louder we are, the more ears we reach in the State Legislature. Would \$85 a year to be a TAASLP member, support your profession, get discounted CEUs and fuel our legislative efforts be a more reasonable option for you than \$400 a year for the PPT?

If you aren't licensed because you don't want to (or simply can't) pay the \$400 PPT, this means you can't provide after school/summer or private services. Would you be willing to join our cause, help us get this repealed and then have the opportunity to get licensed and earn more income if you want to? I invite you to support your profession by supporting TAASLP. Help us advocate for you. And put \$400 a year back in your pocket.

Best,
Julie Anne Davis, MA, CCC/SLP
VP Membership



Focus On Our Schools...

ARE YOU A SCHOOL SLP OR AUDIOLOGIST?

If you are YOU need to read this!

Do you have concerns about your workloads/caseloads, salaries, licensure, paperwork demands, Privilege to Practice Tax, current research based intervention strategies or any other pressing issues? TAASLP is here for you! Your state association is here to listen and work with you individually and as a group.

Did you know we have a standing **SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**? The Public Schools Committee needs you! Currently the committee chair position is vacant. We also need several of you to fill the committee positions. Ideally we like to have individuals from across the state. Your voices need to be heard from Elizabethton to Knoxville to Maryville to Chattanooga to Pulaski to Nashville to Dickson to Memphis and Dresden.

If you are passionate about your profession and concerned about hot issues, please consider joining the Public Schools Committee. You can contact me Paulette Gentry, Past President, school SLP with Metro Nashville Public Schools at paulette.gentry@mnps.org I will be joining you on this committee.

We will be represented at our upcoming convention, Oct. 29 and 30, 2015, Chattanooga, TN with a great school's track. Several of you voiced your concerns at last year's convention at our Schools table. With your help we can once again be present and visible at our convention.

IT ONLY TAKES A FEW TO GET THIS COMMITTEE GOING. WHO WILL BE THE FIRST?

Focus On Our Programs*...

University of Memphis

"I have been at the University of Memphis for 25 years now and have dreamed of this building from the start," said Dr. Maurice Mendel, Dean of the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Donors contributed more than \$15 million toward the new facility, qualifying the school for \$45 million in matching funds from the State of Tennessee.

The University of Memphis School of Communications Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is nationally recognized for its academic, research, and clinical education programs. Here are some of the exciting recent developments in our program.

CSD Graduate Programs among the Highest Ranked Nationwide

In March, U.S. News and World Report again ranked the University of Memphis Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology graduate programs among the best in the country.

The SLP graduate program ranked 15th nationally, while the Audiology program ranked 12th. Rankings were based on statistical surveys of nearly 1,900 programs and reputation surveys sent to nearly 14,000 academics and professionals in Fall 2014.

"Being the largest graduate school in the Mid-South, the University of Memphis is increasingly being seen as the destination school for high quality graduate programs in many different disciplines," said Karen Weddle-West, university provost.

New State-of-the-Art CSD Facility to Open This Summer

This summer, the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders will move to a new 200,000-square-foot facility on the University's Park Avenue Campus.

The Community Health Facility, which will house both the CSD program and the Loewenberg School of Nursing, is set to open its doors in August. The building will accommodate more than 1,100 nursing students and 200 and graduate clinicians, faculty and staff members.

Key features include a public clinic, a two-story anechoic chamber, complex simulation labs and a 5,000-square-foot auditorium. The facility will provide each program with its own four-story wing.



CSD Researchers to Study Parkinson's with Michael J. Fox Foundation Grant

Dr. Michael P. Cannito, SLP professor at the University of Memphis School of Communications Sciences and Disorders, recently joined a research team working under a grant from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research. The award is \$677,386 for three years.

Cannito will investigate the grant, "Augmenting Treatment Effects of Voice Therapy in Parkinson's Disease," with a multidisciplinary team that includes Dr. Shalini Narayana, principal investigator and assistant professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and a host of CSD faculty.

"This is the study of a lifetime for someone in my area of neuromotor speech disorders," said Cannito. "This new approach of combining behavioral speech/voice therapy with transcranial magnetic brain stimulation and neuroimaging methodology, if successful, may open up a new frontier of rehabilitation for a variety of neurological disorders affecting the ability to speak."

The study examines the combination of behavioral voice treatment (LSVT-LOUD) and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) in 36 participants with idiopathic Parkinson's disease. Treatments are provided at the Le Bonheur outpatient center; pre- and post-treatment, as well as follow-up evaluations will be conducted at the Memphis Speech and Hearing Center.

* This is the first installment of the "Programs Series" that will feature one of Tennessee's fantastic Audiology and/or Speech-Language Pathology programs per issue. If you want your school to be featured next or have interesting information about your program that you would like to share, please contact comm@taaslp.org.

Focus On Legislation...

Other Activities at the Tennessee Legislature

By John Williams

By now, you all know that the Tennessee legislature failed to approve Governor Haslam's proposed Medicaid expansion, known as Insure Tennessee. The reasons for their disapproval are almost entirely political – they don't like President Obama and they don't like Obamacare. The proponents of Insure Tennessee will try again next year, but with a Presidential election looming in 2016, the likelihood of a different result next year is slim.

The legislature did renew for another year the Hospital Assessment, which helps fund all therapy services for adults on TennCare, as well as a lot of other services.

Legislation

What's Up with the PPT?

By John Williams

The Tennessee General Assembly has been in session for the last four months and will end its 2015 activities this week. The legislature will re-convene in January 2016.

TAASLP's top priority continues to be the elimination of the professional privilege tax (PPT) as applied to audiologists and speech pathologists. Senate Bill 167, sponsored by Sen. Janice Bowling, and House Bill 601, sponsored by Rep. Jeremy Durham, would accomplish that goal. The bill was deferred to 2016, with the possibility of a study of the PPT by the Finance Committees. The Senate Revenue Subcommittee engaged in a spirited discussion about the issue. The video of this discussion is available in the archived video section of the General Assembly website.

What are the concerns of legislators about this bill? The loss of about \$1 million in tax revenue if the bill were passed. The outcry from other professions if only audiologists and SLPs are deleted from the list of professions required to pay the tax. And most importantly, the lack of support for this bill from Governor Haslam.

What can TAASLP do to pass this bill? I sound like a broken record, I'm sure. Every TAASLP member needs to meet with his/her Senator and Representative to explain why this tax is unfair. Schedule these meetings during a month when the legislature is not in session (May – December). It will be easier to schedule the meeting, and you will get the legislators' undivided attention.

As your lobbyist, I can get the bill introduced, and I can write the talking points for the sponsors. I can distribute letters to the Finance Committee members. I did all that this year.

But it's up to TAASLP members to convince your legislators of the justice of your cause. No one likes to pay taxes. Your job is to convince your legislators that you aren't just a whiner. You have a just cause, and you need your legislators' help to advance your cause.

Let's get to work!

Other Activities at the Tennessee Legislature cont'd

The legislature considered but did not pass bills to expand the Autism insurance mandate to cover behavioral therapy services. Lynn Harmon and I met with representatives of Autism Speaks to discuss this issue.

TAASLP member Beth Bowlds testified before the House Health Subcommittee about the subject of childhood apraxia of speech. Rep. Bryan Terry sponsored a House Joint Resolution on this subject to raise awareness of this condition, which his daughter is being treated for.

Focus On Scholarships...

Scholarship Winners!!

TAASLP Foundation Scholarship Awards

At the annual convention last October, your contributions helped support \$1000 scholarships to two outstanding individuals. This past year, the qualifications of all the applicants made the selection process a challenge. Here is some information about those who were chosen to receive this honor.

While participating in a research project, an ear impression became lodged in Kelly Jahn's ear. However, severe pain and a trip to the emergency room didn't dampen her enthusiasm for audiology research. Undaunted, this third year doctoral student at Vanderbilt has worked in the Cochlear Implant Research Laboratory and obtained a Traineeship in the Multisensory Processing Laboratory. Her experience in research and the publication of her undergraduate honors thesis led to two additional poster presentations at the annual conference of the American Auditory Society. Through ongoing research experiences, coursework, and clinical practicum placements, she has strengthened her interest in all aspects of the Audiology profession. This busy student has been a representative for the American Academy of Audiology's Coding and Reimbursement Committee and served as the Philanthropy Chair for the Vanderbilt Student Academy of Audiology. Upon graduation, she aspires to work directly with patients in the clinic as well as making scholarly contributions in research and the education of future audiologists.



Renee King, Master's student in Speech-Language Pathology, described her childhood self as a spelling bee kid and grammar nerd. With an undergraduate degree in linguistics, she worked different jobs until becoming a mom. She was inspired to be a role model for her daughter and pursue her career dreams. She returned to school and completed a second bachelor's degree in communication disorders, while working full time. Her goals became more focused while she received additional knowledge and training. She attended every voice class or training opportunity she could. Subsequently, she was accepted to the Voice Specialty Track at Vanderbilt University. Her interest in voice led her to pursue experience in research as well as academics, including participation in the Laryngeal Biology Laboratory. Ms. King's master's thesis analyzes the efficacy of voice rest after microflap surgery for benign vocal fold lesions and she plans to submit it for publication. A May graduate, her career goals include clinical work and research in voice and potentially a PhD.

We are grateful for the ongoing support from LinguiSystems in helping the TAASLP Foundation achieve our goal of assisting deserving students. For the past five years LinguiSystems has contributed to the student scholarship fund.

The scholarship awards from the TAASLP Foundation have helped support the goals of these two individuals. I am grateful that as an organization we are able to recognize their commitment and scholarship. Please help us continue to promote the success of our future clinicians by your support of TAASLP Foundation fundraising.

Gayle Tucker, MA, CCC-SLP

Kelly Jahn, Au.D. Candidate and Renee King, Master's in SLP Candidate

Focus On Convention... Past and FUTURE

WINNERS!!



Congratulations to UT Knoxville for winning the 2014 College Bowl Challenge!!!

"CALL FOR PAPERS" OPENS Friday, May 1st

We are so looking forward to reviewing your many excellent submissions for consideration to present at TAASLP Convention 2015.

WINNERS!!



Congratulations to MTSU for winning the 2014 College Spirit Competition!!!

We're gearing up for another exciting meeting this year. The **23rd Annual Joint Convention of TAASLP & TAA** will be held this fall in **Chattanooga, TN** on **Thursday, October 29th & Friday, October 30th**, and our convention venue is a real gem. **The Chattanooga** is an award-winning hotel and conference center, offering deluxe modern accommodations and spacious, high-tech meeting areas. A block of divine sleeping rooms has been reserved for TAASLP/TAA Convention Attendees at a luxuriously discounted rate (\$139/night), but you must book your hotel room by **Monday, September 28th**, to take advantage of these savings. Also, remember to reference the Group ID #: **552142** when making your reservations.



Congratulations to Gary Jacobson, Ph.D. and Devin McCaslin, Ph.D. on receiving the Distinguished Service Award

The 23rd Annual TAASLP & TAA Convention
The Chattanooga Hotel – Chattanooga, TN
October 29th & 30th, 2015

<http://www.chattanooga.com/>
Hotel Room Reservation Group ID #: 552142
(800) 619-0018

The **22nd Annual Joint Convention of the Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists (TAASLP) and the Tennessee Academy of Audiology (TAA)**, held last year at the beautifully equipped Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro, TN, was a raging success!!! Thank you to all of our extraordinary speakers, our generous exhibitors and sponsors, but most of all thank **YOU** and all of our spectacular attendees. There would, of course, be no Convention without the amazing "behind-the-scenes" efforts from our stellar group of student volunteers, the outstanding Convention Committee, and the fearless and fantastic leadership of our Executive Council. Thank you, for all that you do to promote TAASLP's mission, **"to meet the needs of persons with hearing, communication, and swallowing disorders and to enhance the professional development of audiologists and speech-language pathologists"**.

As part of **ASHA's Envisioned Future 2015-2017** initiative to educate our professions on the implementation and expansion of interprofessional education and interprofessional collaborative practice (IPE/IPP) in health care, TAASLP was selected as one of only 10 state associations to receive a unique ASHA-sponsored speakership for our 2015 annual state convention. **Pam Mason, Au.D., CCC-A**, a member of ASHA's internal IPE/IPP team and the Director of Audiology Professional Practices at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), will be presenting a 1-hour discussion on the topic of IPE/IPP and how it will impact SLPs and audiologists during our luncheon plenary. Please plan to attend this very important event; CEUs will be provided.

Sarah L. Grantham, Au.D., CCC-A
TAASLP Vice President - Convention