



TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF
AUDIOLOGISTS & SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

A Letter from the PRESIDENT

Welcome spring!!! We are so glad you are here! This time of year makes me contemplate the newness of life and the enjoyment of the world around me as I see flowers bloom and hear the birds sing. Many TAASLP members have not been hibernating this winter, however, we have been busy little bees convincing legislators that the PPT is unfair to Tennesseans, especially Speech-language pathologists and Audiologists. If you missed the opportunity to serve with us on the "Day on the Hill" you missed a great time of collaboration with other professionals in our field and a chance to see our law-makers in action. I hope that you can join us next year! Believe me, you don't want to miss it! I want to thank each and every one of you who took time, perhaps even unpaid time, to stand with us on this issue. I cannot thank John Williams enough as he continues to go to battle for us as our lobbyist. Alison Kempf and Jackie Youde did an amazing job organizing the event. The handouts that were prepared for distribution to the legislators were absolutely perfect. I feel certain that I am leaving many people out, who should be recognized...please know how thankful we are for your service.

How about you? Have you contacted your legislators to voice your concerns about the PPT? I encourage you to call them, to sit with them over a cup of coffee and let them put your face in their minds when they are considering their vote. It's easy to ignore an email, but it's difficult to look in someone's eyes and forget them.

Lastly, as I think about the newness of the season I think about new members. Do you know anyone who may be interested in our organization? We are growing, but we all know some colleagues who haven't joined yet. Encourage them to join and to attend the convention in Knoxville this year. It will be awesome!!

Now get out there and enjoy some sunshine and spring-time fun!

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

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

The legislative team has been busy at work this quarter! We organized several campaigns to individually contact TAASLP members in target districts of legislators who are key decision makers in the first phases needed to repeal the Professional Privilege Tax (PPT). TAASLP lobbyist John Williams has been hard at work advocating for our members and recruiting efforts from other professionals affected by this tax as well.

On February 28, 2017, many TAASLP members and representatives of the TAASLP Executive Board convened at Legislative Plaza for Day on the Hill. We met with approximately 30 legislators, many of whom are on the State or House Finance Committees and will be making recommendations for or against bills phasing out the PPT. We had a successful day with record attendance. Overall, legislators were sympathetic to our situation, HOWEVER, we were repeatedly told that the legislators needed to personally hear from their constituents on the issue. An email is not enough. They need to hear from you directly.

On March 10, 2017, TAASLP member Kelly Jo Booker organized a meeting with 20 audiologists and speech-language pathologists in the Chattanooga and surrounding areas to meet with Sen. Watson about the PPT. This is an amazing example of grass roots advocacy efforts! She reserved a conference room in her clinic, and each TAASLP member was able to tell Sen. Watson how the PPT affected him or her personally. Great job, Kelly Jo!

Decisions are imminent. The phasing out of the PPT will be decided very quickly. If you have not made the effort to speak personally with your legislators, please do so now. We have been told over and over that they must hear from their own constituents. If the PPT is ever going to have a chance to be repealed, THIS IS THE YEAR it can be done. If you need help or resources to plan a meeting, email advocacy@taaslp.org or check out the website. It is easy to do – remember, your legislators work for you!



PICTURED: (LEFT TO RIGHT): Ashley Davis, Sen Bo Watson, Kelly Jo Booker, and Will Hutchinson

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

I am excited to be the new TAASLP VP of Membership, and I am eager to serve our members and community. It truly is an exciting time to be a hearing and speech professional in our beautiful state. With more and more people moving to the area in droves, our services are in higher demand than ever. As we go to our daily jobs, likely even putting in overtime to meet the needs of our consumers, it's important to remember what's going on outside the walls of our clinic, hospital, or school that directly affects our profession. TAASLP Executive Council members and committee chairs work diligently not only to keep abreast of the current news and legislative changes that affect our field but also to provide the resources, guidance, and training opportunities to support the audiologists and speech-language pathologists we serve. Although we each donate our time to the organization and enjoy doing so, we need your help and your voice to make the biggest impact. Particularly with the proposed bill to repeal the professional privilege tax (PPT), there is strength in numbers and change will only happen when our legislators are convinced by their constituents that this change is imperative. Thank you to our members who have already contacted their legislators. For those who have yet to contact their House representative and Senator, please do so NOW. Now is your chance to make a difference. See update from VP Legislation Alison Kempf for more details surrounding this timely issue.

Aside from impacting legislative decisions, there are numerous ways your voice can contribute to your profession and specifically to TAASLP. We welcome your input. I personally would love to hear how TAASLP can better serve you as a provider, as a student, or as someone who simply wants to know more about what we do. Coming soon are updates to the website. Because we should more than others understand the importance of good communication, we want to provide an easily accessible, easy to navigate, and regularly updated tool for anyone who may venture to the TAASLP website. If you have suggestions for additions to the helpful resources page or if there is something currently missing that you would like to see, don't hesitate to email me.

We have several hundred full members and just over one hundred student members of TAASLP. So that we can continue to serve our members and community in the best way possible, we would love to see these numbers grow. Membership benefits include but are certainly not limited to:

- *Discounted TAASLP convention registration fees
- *Support of lobbying efforts towards legislative issues surrounding audiology and speech-language pathology
- *Platform to network with other professionals as well as to voice opinions, insight, and concerns
- *Access to helpful resources such as continuing education opportunities

I value this opportunity to serve on the TAASLP Executive Council and hope to make a difference alongside my colleagues and peers.

Sincerely,

Rachel Hughes

membership@taaslp.com

Program Spotlight



**VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY**

**By: Kelly Fussman, TAASLP
Student Representative**

Contact: student@taaslp.org

Vanderbilt University is a private university located Nashville, TN.

Housed in the School of Medicine, the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences (DHSS) offers academic coursework and clinical practicum leading to the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology, the Master in Education of the Deaf degree, and the Doctor of Audiology. In addition, the Doctor of Philosophy degree is offered in audiology, speech-language pathology, and hearing or speech science. Currently, the Doctor of Audiology program and the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program are ranked first in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

The Vanderbilt DHSS offers a number of specialty tracks for students enrolled in clinical

programs. Doctor of Audiology students may pursue training in Early Identification and Management of Children with Hearing Loss or Vestibular Sciences. Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology students may pursue training in Early Identification and Management of Children with Hearing Loss, Schools, or Voice. Students on the specialty tracks have additional coursework and practicum experience that will prepare them to work with individuals in their specialty.

The Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center (VBWC) offers students one of the finest facilities in the U.S. in which to learn both academically and clinically. The facility houses service delivery programs for audiology, speech-language pathology, deaf education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and otolaryngology. It contains educational and research space specifically designed to accommodate the DHSS programs. With nine audiology and speech-language pathology clinics located in both hospital and clinical settings, and on-site pre-schools for children with hearing loss and children with autism, DHSS students have access to all aspects of clinical experience—identification, assessment, and management—

from neonates to geriatric patients.

The DHSS has a number of active research labs in both audiology and speech-language pathology, several of which have NIH funding. Graduate students have the opportunity to work as research assistants and complete a master's thesis. Vanderbilt was well-represented at the ASHA Convention in November 2016, as many students and faculty were in attendance and presented their research.

The Vanderbilt University Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is very active, both on campus and in the community. Each spring, members host a Communication Sciences & Disorders Career Awareness Day on Vanderbilt's main campus. The day is spent spreading awareness about CSD professions to both undergraduate and graduate students. Each fall, Trivia Night is held to raise money for the ASHA Foundation. Vanderbilt's chapter of NSSLHA supports a number of philanthropies throughout the year: Down Syndrome Clinic Holiday Party, Nashville Autism Walk, Nashville Childhood Apraxia Walk, and classroom acoustics advocacy in Metro Nashville Public Schools.

TAASLP Foundation

Each year the TAASLP Foundation awards scholarships to exceptional students enrolled in Tennessee higher education programs in Communication Disorders. Scholarships of \$1000 each are awarded to one Audiology student and one Speech Language Pathology student.

Congratulations to the 2016 winners, Claire Umeda and Susan Thomas, both from Vanderbilt University. We wish you the best as you complete your studies and begin your careers; we are certain that you will represent the Foundation and our professions well!



(pictured from left to right: Claire Umeda, AuD student, Melissa Grater, TAASLP Foundation Past-Chair, and Susan Thomas, SLP student)

Would you like to help the TAASLP Foundation maintain these scholarships for TN SLP and AuD students as well as back the Foundation's efforts to support TAASLP members?

Well, here's your chance! Join us on June 1, 2017 for the **Foundation No Show Gala!**

Show your support for the hard-working students in our state without stepping a foot outside of your door. Instead of buying a ticket to an actual event, purchasing a new outfit, and dealing with the hassle of travel and parking, put those savings toward a worthy cause and make a tax-deductible donation directly to the Foundation. Learn more about the No Show Gala and support the TAASLP Foundation by visiting our page:

<http://taaslp.org/foundation-gala.htm>

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS:

Update on the new state eligibility standards:

The standards passed. The disability guidelines are being created at this time. Looking at a July 1 date

RTI for speech and language:

The Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS-SL) have been created as well. They will part of the pre-intervention guidelines. Everything still needs to go through communication review before being presented.

ADVOCACY:

Metro Nashville Public School: An annual salary supplement of \$4,000.00 to nationally certified and state licensed Speech-Language Pathologists will be given beginning 2017 to retain highly qualified SLP professionals.

Please be thinking of which of your fellow school SLPs you will be nominating for the Public Schools Incentive Award from TAASLP this year. Have a great relaxing summer!

Public Schools Committee



Pictured: (left to right): Lindsey Eastland, Kandysue Savage, and Leslie Hunt. Kandysue Savage, M.Ed., CCC-SLP is the 2016 recipient of the Public Schools Incentive Award. She is a Speech-Language Pathologist from Maury County School System.

Convention 2016

The 24th Annual Joint Convention of TAASLP & TAA was every bit, “Bigger, Better, and Brighter”. Over 200 attendees participated in two days of engaging breakout sessions, networked with their peers and 21 vendors throughout our Exhibit Hall, rooted for their alma mater in the College Bowl Challenge, discussed TAASLP’s lobbying efforts and action plan to [hopefully & eventually] phase out the professional privilege tax, and congratulated members awarded for their dedicated service to the professions of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Thank you, in particular, to our fantastic featured speakers, our energetic student volunteers, and our tireless convention committee and executive council for your masterful planning and leadership skills. Y’all R-O-C-K!

It’s been an incredible three years serving as your VP Convention. I’ve learned so very much and have made so many new friends, but am equally thrilled to be passing the torch to the talented Morgan Greve. As the new VP Convention, she is already in the midst of planning an amazing meeting to celebrate our 25th Annual Joint Convention, to be held November 2nd & 3rd at the Crowne Plaza in Knoxville, TN. Until then, please enjoy these photographs that flashback to last year’s festivities.

With Gratitude,

Sarah L. Grantham, Au.D., CCC-A
TAASLP Past VP Convention & Continuing Education

Featured Speakers:

Adult/Medical SLP: Michael de Riesthal, Ph.D. - Aphasia & Concussion

Audiology: David Baguley, Ph.D. & Marc Fagelson, Ph.D. - Emerging Trends and Treatments for Tinnitus

Pre-School/School-Age SLP: Emily Rubin, M.S. - The SCERTS Model

College Bowl Champions – Vanderbilt University

TAASLP Award Winner – Kandysue Savage, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

TAASLP Foundation Student Scholarship Winners - Claire Umeda, AuD student and Susan Thomas, SLP student

CONVENTION 2016



PICTURED: Micheal de Riesthal, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University College Bowl Winners, Alyssa Conger M.S., CCC-SLP, Jackie Youde, AuD, MBA, David Baguley Ph.D., Marc Fagelson, Ph.D., and Emily Rubin, M.S., CCC-SLP

Upcoming 2017 Convention



SAVE THE DATE

25th Annual TAASLP & TAA Conference

November 2nd - 3rd, 2017

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Knoxville, TN

Convention features two days of engaging presentations and panel discussions on current issues to the practices of audiology and speech-language pathology. Over 200 professionals and 25 exhibitors attend the TAASLP annual conference for professional development and networking opportunities.

REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 1ST, 2017

*We look forward
to seeing YOU in
November!*



CALL FOR PAPERS

Opens April 12th and will close on June 30th

- Please submit your abstract (100 words max) and make your contribution to the local speech, language, and hearing community!
- All topics relevant to both the speech and hearing fields will be considered, with presentation times ranging from 30 to 120 minutes.
- The process to submit is simple and available on our website:
<http://taaslp.org/TAASLP-Conference.htm>



Thank you Sponsors!!

