Welcome to Spring, Members!

TAASLP is wearing a new spring look; our website has had a makeover. We welcome our new web manager, Tracy Rode, who has given TAASLP a fresh new face. The web site is easy to navigate, and we have tried to include information that is concise and useful for our members. We welcome your suggestions, questions and ideas about the website. Please send comments to communications@taaslp.org.

Spring also brings Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM). What a great time for advocacy of the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. Our grass roots efforts are the foundation that can grow into meaningful and long lasting changes for the professions and the clients we serve. We can participate in public service announcements and/or customize a press release for radio, TV and/or newspapers. I encourage everyone to utilize all the resources that are available from ASHA. Please tell us how you participate in BHSM so we can share your wonderful ideas with the TAASLP membership. Send ideas to communications@taaslp.org.

Other signs of spring include legislative sessions and budget hearings at the federal, state and local levels. This is the time of year for school SLPS to begin or continue their work on salary supplements and/or sign-on bonuses. Day on the Hill was held in March, and many TAASLP members and students from around the state took advantage of this time to speak to legislators and to advocate for our professions. If you missed this opportunity, be sure to find out ways you can get involved by visiting http://taaslp.org/advocacy and http://www.hearitnn.com. Thank you all for your membership and participation in TAASLP.

Wishing everyone a beautiful and active Spring!

Paulette Gentry

Membership Corner

by Julie Anne Tanner, VP Membership

As with everything in life, times are a-changing. Again.

As a nation, we continue to struggle with a difficult economy and civil and military unrest overseas. As a profession, we face nearly constant political and healthcare related challenges that can affect our work, our income and our clients. As an individual clinician, you face work, family, health and social demands that often exceed the number of hours you have in a day to get it all done. It’s easy to become overwhelmed by all the larger issues out there and feel helpless to do anything about it.

I’d like to ask you to turn your attention to the things you CAN do something about.

TAASLP just participated in Day on the Hill and we had a large, highly motivated contingency of TAASLP members and Graduate students come from all over the state and advocate for our profession and the services we provide. It was my first time participating in an event such as this and it was a real eye-opener. I’ve avoided such activities because I don’t consider myself “political” or well-versed in local, state and national political issues, much less the specific issues related to my field of Speech Pathology. I was afraid I’d be asked questions I couldn’t answer and I was intimidated by the prospect of meeting State Representatives or Senators. But as a group we were prepared. Barbara Jacobson, VP of Legislation, and John Williams, TAASLP’s lobbyist, provided us with a summary, in layperson’s terms, of the bills and issues that directly impacted our professions. We weren’t there to play lobbyists. We were there to demonstrate our interest in preserving and advocating for our profession, thank the Representatives and Senators who have helped us in the past, and give a face to our field and our clients. We shared stories, we educated on the broad spectrum of services that we provide, and we were welcomed by those we met. We met with other SLP’s and Audiologists, networked and we got CEUs for being there. One of the bills we advocated for was passed that day to go on to the Finance Committee. It was a great experience and one that I will do again.

Events like Day on the Hill show me, us, that we CAN make a difference. TAASLP membership is a step towards advocacy in the state of Tennessee. Services are constantly being slated to be cut or drastically reduced and TAASLP is right there to say NO and THIS IS WHY! I invite you to take the next step and join us next year for this great day of advocacy.

Another change is our new website, www.taaslp.org. If you haven’t checked it out lately, log on. I think you’ll be pleasantly surprised how much easier it is to navigate and find the information you seek. We are working very hard to get the membership areas of the website to be more interactive — allowing you to update your own information, link you to other clinicians and resources, and of course notify you of CEU opportunities. With all things lately, it is a work in progress with multiple changes anticipated over the next few months, so check back often.

I invite our current members to seriously consider how you can be more active in TAASLP. We try very hard to keep the demands on your time limited but rewarding. I invite you to encourage your non-member colleagues to join us. Advocate TAASLP to your students. Tell your clients to check our website and see what we’re doing. And if you have questions or comments, the Executive Council members are available. Please don’t hesitate to contact one of us: http://taaslp.org/about/leadership.
2011 Day on the Hill

By Barb Jacobson, VP Legislative Affairs

24 audiologists and speech-language pathologists, 45 students. Over 40 legislator visits. TAASLP had a successful Day on the Hill event on Tuesday, March 26th. In addition to speaking with legislators about targeted legislation, we hosted students from four of five graduate communication disorders programs across Tennessee. ASHA supported this effort with a one-time grant to foster student advocacy at the state level.

Prior to our Day on the Hill event, I spoke to students in two universities on the legislative process and about the bills that were relevant to speech-language pathologists and audiologists for this legislative session. A PowerPoint presentation was distributed to three other universities for their students’ reference.

After a breakfast reception at the Hermitage Hotel, TAASLP lobbyist, John Williams, briefed attendees on the bills that were of interest (insurance coverage for hearing aids for children, insurance coverage for telemedicine, hearing aid dispensing by universities, and formation of a separate licensing board by hearing aid dispensers). We headed for Legislative Plaza and TAASLP members took students (armed with talking points) to visit with selected legislators (sponsors and co-sponsors of legislation, members of House and Senate Finance committees, as well as their own representatives) to discuss bills and the professions in general. Students were a strong presence in the presentations to legislators. When visits were completed, all the students convened for lunch in the historic Legislative Lounge (formerly Library) across from Senate Chambers.

In addition to the professionals that attended this event and mentored students, I would like to thank John Williams, Susan Logan, Jennifer Craig, Amy Livingston, and Paulette Gentry for their substantive support.
2011 Legislative Session Update

SB 0607/HB 0761 – Insurance coverage for hearing aids for children – This bill was passed out of the House Finance Committee on a unanimous vote on 3/29/11. It was placed on the full House calendar for a vote on 4/7/11 and passed. It barely squeaked through the Senate Finance Committee (the Chair, Sen. McNally said he would vote for the bill, but changed his vote to a ‘no’ at the last minute).

The vote is up in the Senate this week. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR!!!! We especially need to target the following folks: Ramsey, Crowe, Berke, Harper, Barnes, Herron, Ford and Marrero. We feel that Campfield, Roberts and Summerville may vote ‘yes’, but not certain. Bell, Yager, Tracy and Beavers will probably not support, but are worth trying to persuade.

WE NEED 6 votes to get this through (based on John Williams’ estimation of the vote count). THIS IS THE LAST HAUL!

*****To find phone and email contact information for legislators:
Senate – http://www.capitol.tn.gov/senate/members/

SB 0483/HB 0738 Amendment 1 – Continues the assessment on the net revenue of hospitals to offset cuts to TennCare; passage of this amendment would allow for the inclusion of speech-language pathology services to non-pregnant adults – This has passed the House and Senate

SB 1407/HB 1065 – Insurance coverage of telemedicine – This bill does not have a great chance of passing this session. However, there does seem to be some general sentiment in favor of the concept. Depending on member interest, we may pursue a similar bill more actively next session. The Board of Communication Disorders and Sciences has convened a working group to determine if our scope of practice statute needs to be amended to accommodate telepractice (ASHA’s preferred term).

SB 1049/HB 1272 – Creation of Board for Hearing Instrument Specialists – According to John Williams, this bill has been withdrawn from consideration. Please check http://www.legislature.state.tn.us for updates on this bill.

SB 1262/HB 1173 – Allows for universities to provide the full range of hearing aid dispensing services– The bill is on the calendar for the House to vote on this Thursday. It will be presented in the Senate Finance, Ways & Means committee on Tuesday, May 3.

As always, if you have questions about legislation and/or would like to suggest specific legislation for consideration, please let me know (barb.jacobson@vanderbilt.edu; 615.343.0861). In addition, we are always looking for people who would like to participate on this committee.
Interact with TAAASLP.org

Our latest addition to the TAAASLP website is online membership/renewal and an integrated member directory system. The new system allows us to use email addresses as usernames and gives you the ability to edit your own profile, including your password.

We have connected membership, renewal and event registration to secure PayPal credit card processing. You do not have to have a PayPal account to take advantage of this feature.

In order to use the members-only features, click here.

- Your password will be your first name followed by the first letter of your last name (so Bobby Brown’s would be bobbyb).
- Your username is the email address we have on file for you.
- We suggest you log in as soon as possible and change your password to something unique. When you are logged in, you will be able to see the members-only features in the navigation menus and update your profile. If you would like to add your photograph to your profile, email it to communications@taaslp.org.

If you have any difficulty with your application or renewal, contact membership@taaslp.org.

Thanks, Michael

By Sharon A. Roehrig

TAAASLP would like to say good bye and thank you to Michael Vaughn, who has served TAAASLP as the Internet Manager for the past 15 years. Since Michael’s wife is an SLP, he had a particular interest in the field and supported TAAASLP with his knowledge and commitment to excellence through the early efforts to “go electronic” and through some difficult financial times.

Michael developed the initial website for TAAASLP and prompted such innovations as moving the newsletters to being on-line instead of hard copies mailed out. This saved TAAASLP an enormous amount of money. He helped ease transition periods as TAAASLP leadership changed frequently, as any volunteer agency tends to do. TAAASLP EC acknowledged Michael’s contribution by honoring him with the Distinguished Service Award. I myself had the pleasure of working with him for 4 years as the VP communications and found his advice and prodding to advance TAAASLP’s use of the website and technology invaluable.

Thanks, Michael for a job well done.

Welcome Our New Web Manager

TAAASLP/TAAN welcomes Tracy Rode as our new web manager.

Tracy owns and operates Vision3 Interactive, an internet strategy/design/development business started in 1995. While her clients run the gamut from large corporations to small entrepreneurs, Tracy has a particular affinity for membership organizations like TAAASLP. An active community volunteer herself, her experience with membership organizations, coupled with her communications and technology expertise, make Tracy’s team a good fit for our needs. Be sure to log in and

One of Tracy’s first tasks was to transition our newsletter from a traditional print format to a dynamic online format that will be fully searchable. Tracy says, “I appreciate TAAASLP’s openness to change and growth. This newsletter is going to look very different but as editions accumulate, members will see the benefit of having the articles be a cohesive part of the site content.”

If you have any suggestions or questions for Tracy as she helps TAAASLP with our web-based needs, please contact communications@taaslp.org. Thank you.

Return to Spring 2011 Newsletter
A Conversation with a NICU SLP

By Helen Hopson, MS, CCC-SLP

Michelle Timmerman is a Speech-Language Pathologist at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, TN, specializing in neonatal intensive care for the past four years. She received her Masters of Education from the University of Georgia. I recently had the opportunity to talk with Michelle about her unique role in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

HH: Describe your role as a speech-language pathologist in the NICU.

MT: As a speech pathologist in the NICU, I develop specific feeding plans and guidelines for all sick and/or preterm infants who are attempting oral feeding (generally 32 wks gestation or greater), and having difficulty. The majority of the population that I serve involves the premies that are “learning to feed,” and developing the skills necessary to feed safely and efficiently. I am also able to assist with infants that have feeding difficulties secondary to structural deformities (cleft palate) or neurological deficits. Feeding plans often times involve: suggesting different types of nipples, feeding positions, external pacing, reflux management, etc. I also strive to serve as a communication liaison between physicians, parents, nurses and lactation consultants. The best service we can provide is when we are all on the same page as a united team.

HH: How did you prepare for such a unique role as an SLP? Were you specifically trained for this role?

MT: I was so fortunate to have this position opened up to me, as I have seen that it can be a rare opportunity. I was also new to this area of our field when I began training for the NICU and was able to attend several workshops and conferences regarding pediatric and neonatal feeding intervention. I was also very fortunate to have been taken under the wing of a colleague, Holly Burchett, CCC-SLP, who guided me and gave me the hands-on training that I needed. I would venture to say that I am always “in training,” as new and exciting cases and opportunities are constantly presenting themselves in the NICU every day.

HH: What is the most rewarding part of your work?

MT: The most rewarding part of my work is watching new parents successfully feed their babies. The simple act of being able to bottle feed their baby gives the parents a piece of “normalcy” in a foreign, and often times, unexpected, environment such as the NICU. It’s so fulfilling to see that joy and hope in their faces.

HH: What do you think is the most challenging part of your work?

MT: The most challenging part of my work, by far, is communicating to a parent that their child is not “safe” to bottle feed. When an infant requires a feeding tube, it’s important to be honest and provide the necessary information to assure that the infant is safe, while at the same time, allowing the parents to hold out hope for an unknown future. Communication has to be extremely important in this setting with both medical staff and parents.

HH: With whom do you collaborate to ensure you are providing the best care for the infant?

MT: Communication among doctors, nurses, parents, and therapists is extremely important in providing consistency of care. I try to assure that we are all on the same page in our goals and plan of care.

HH: What is the most important information a parent should have before taking the infant home?

MT: A parent should be comfortable and competent in providing care for their infant before they go home. It’s so important that the parents have that one-on-one time with their babies so that they have a smooth transition home.

HH: What are some of the unique aspects of your work with infants that sets it apart from other settings?

MT: I think the most unique aspect of working with infants has to be the snuggling that occasionally occurs following treatments. I can’t say that I’ve ever held and cuddled an adult patient of mine following treatment – that would be a little awkward!

HH: What else would you like to share with students or your peers about this unique line of work?

MT: Working in the NICU is such a rewarding and exciting opportunity – I would encourage anyone to observe, volunteer, or pursue job opportunities in this area of our field. It’s so important to keep our babies safe.

For more questions regarding the roles and responsibilities of an SLP in the NICU, please contact Michelle at Michelle.Timmerman@hcahealthcare.com.
News from ASHA

It's time to register for ASHA Schools 2011! It will be held July 8-10 at The Gaylord National in Maryland. You can register now by going to [www.asha.org/events](http://www.asha.org/events). The early bird deadline is May 31st. Special events during the conference include the welcome reception (on July 7), the ASHA Member Forum (July 9), and the ASHA PAC Sunset Reception (also on July 9). During the ASHA Member Forum, you can speak with members of ASHA’s Board of Directors about the association’s current priorities, issues, and initiatives.

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM). Be sure to visit [http://www.asha.org/bhsm/](http://www.asha.org/bhsm/) for more information and ideas.

---

Thanks to Our 2010 Foundation Donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ginny Alexander</th>
<th>Mary Trabue Fitzgerald</th>
<th>Ellen Kelly</th>
<th>Mendy Richards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Allen</td>
<td>Kay Garrard</td>
<td>Mary Kennedy</td>
<td>John Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Amburg</td>
<td>Paulette Gentry</td>
<td>Debra Kipling</td>
<td>Lynn Robertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meridith Amburn</td>
<td>Libby Giff</td>
<td>Paula Laaser</td>
<td>Sharon Roehrig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annette McClary</td>
<td>Laura Gifford</td>
<td>Ralph Leverett</td>
<td>Katie Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teri Barnes</td>
<td>Emily Gregg</td>
<td>Susan Logan</td>
<td>Teris Schery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobbie Beckman</td>
<td>Libby Griffin</td>
<td>Caitlin Long</td>
<td>Nancy Schray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Boyd</td>
<td>Melanie Gunn</td>
<td>Jeannie Luckey</td>
<td>Clare Schuele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doris Brandon</td>
<td>Pam Hale</td>
<td>Walt Manning</td>
<td>Kathie Self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanette Brandon</td>
<td>Sue Hale</td>
<td>Carolyn Martin</td>
<td>Carol Sheridan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chantee Brakeville</td>
<td>Marian Hammett</td>
<td>Cathryn Martin</td>
<td>Angela Shofner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Burgess</td>
<td>Lynn Harmon</td>
<td>Laura Martin</td>
<td>Beth Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Burgess</td>
<td>Colleen Hatcher</td>
<td>Valeria Matlock</td>
<td>Amy Stout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Cates</td>
<td>Mark Hedrick</td>
<td>Whitney Mauldin</td>
<td>Kera Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Chambers</td>
<td>Patti Hergenreder</td>
<td>Annette McClary</td>
<td>Debbie Thacker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Chase</td>
<td>Cindy Hiestand</td>
<td>Maurice Mendel</td>
<td>Anne Marie Tharpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bertha Clark</td>
<td>Laura Higgins</td>
<td>Jevetta Mitchell</td>
<td>Leann Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharia Cruly</td>
<td>Celeste Hochrein</td>
<td>Tonja Moore</td>
<td>Harriett Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael De Riethoven</td>
<td>Brenda Hodge</td>
<td>Nancy Morgan</td>
<td>Katherine Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina Doss</td>
<td>Ann Horton</td>
<td>Elissa Norris</td>
<td>Nick Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Driggins</td>
<td>Beth Humphrey</td>
<td>Meredith Oakley</td>
<td>Wanda G. Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Duhon</td>
<td>Marie Isbell</td>
<td>Ruth Oliver</td>
<td>Kerry Proctor Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Edwards</td>
<td>Barbara Jacobson</td>
<td>Louise Owens</td>
<td>Sidney Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Ellis</td>
<td>Monica Johnson</td>
<td>Teri Philpot</td>
<td>Misty Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Sue Fino-Szumski</td>
<td>Erin Kavanaugh</td>
<td>DR Rao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Update on 2010 Foundation Scholars

By Teris Schery, Foundation Secretary

Each year the TAASLP Foundation holds a competition to award scholarships in support of graduate students attending Tennessee higher education programs in Communication Disorders.

The winners of these scholarships for the 2010/2011 academic year were Nicole Payne (East Tennessee State University) and Emily Woodling (Vanderbilt University). These student scholars were recognized at the TAASLP convention awards luncheon, held on Oct. 21, 2010, in Franklin, Tennessee.

Recently, we caught up with Emily and Nicole to see how they were doing.

Emily Woodling: Emily will graduate from Vanderbilt University in August with an MS in Speech and Language Pathology. She came to Vanderbilt with an undergraduate degree in English (from Rollins College, FL) and a set of post graduation working experiences that led her to define her goal of facilitating language and literacy development for school-based children and adolescents, especially those from diverse and underprivileged backgrounds. Emily first taught in a literacy-based afterschool program in a neighborhood housing authority, then served as a certified English teacher and academic manager at an alternative school for girls. She spent two years as a volunteer English teacher in the Peace Corps in rural Madagascar, where she developed a particular interest in issues related to bilingual communication. All these experiences came together to point Emily toward a career as a speech and language pathologist specializing in literacy and language. Here is Emily’s recent statement:

The application process in and of itself was beneficial in helping me to reflect upon my journey toward speech-language pathology and to articulate my professional goal — to be a representation of what our field has to offer the educational system, particularly in the area of language and literacy. The recognition I received by winning the scholarship has further encouraged me toward my goal. I am very grateful to all those who have donated to the TAASLP Foundation, as the award has helped me to pay for my tuition this year. Now, as I complete my current practicum at a local middle school and prepare to graduate, I am excited about my future in this field. I’m very thankful to everyone who has supported, instructed, and encouraged me.

Nichole Payne: Nicole is enrolled as a third year AuD student at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. She is a graduate of the undergraduate communication disorders program at Middle Tennessee State University. Nicole’s clinical experience at the VA Medical Center in Mountain Home, TN, has encompassed diagnostic testing, hearing aid fitting, evaluation of vestibular functioning and electrophysiological testing. She has developed an interest in research through involvement in a research project on the effects of musical experience on temporal processing and hopes to continue on for a PhD in order to serve as a research faculty member one day. Nicole reports:

As a typical student, I have struggled with the balance of academic and financial requirements associated with obtaining a higher education. This scholarship has lightened the burden created by ever increasing tuition costs. I am currently a 3rd year Audiology student. I have continued to hone the skills necessary for my future professional goal, acquisition of a Ph.D. I have moved into the implementation phase of my research project, recruiting subjects, collecting results, and analyzing data. In the following academic year, I plan to work beside professors as a teaching assistant. From this experience, I hope to develop an appreciation for as well as an understanding of the skills essential for promoting independent, analytical thinking in the next generation of professionals. I would like to express my gratitude to the Foundation for this opportunity. Your continued generosity promotes growth within the field by encouraging students to progress forward towards their professional goals.

Our continuing congratulations to these scholarship award winners. We wish them the very best, as they complete their studies and begin their careers as professionals in the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology.

********

Member contributions toward the TAASLP Foundation support these scholarships and help to assure that we have an upcoming generation of skilled and knowledgeable professional colleagues. If you wish to contribute to strengthening and broadening this program, donations are welcome at the following address:

TAASLP Foundation
P.O. Box 58083
Nashville, TN 37205

Remember it is easy to contribute by adding a gift when renewing your membership. Just check the box and indicate the amount you wish to designate to the TAASLP Foundation. NOTE: Application materials for the TAASLP Foundation Scholarship Competition for the 2011-12 academic year are available at: http://taaslp.org/taaslp-foundation-scholarship.

In addition, copies of application documents will be available from each graduate program’s NSSLHA Faculty Advisor, as well as through any Foundation Board member. Deadline for consideration is July 1, 2011. Questions may be addressed to Mendy Richards, Chair, Scholarship Committee, at mrichards@mtsu.edu.
The Other Side: An SLP Perspective

by Amy Livingston, MS, CCC-SLP

Andrea Barany is a bilingual speech-language pathologist who has spent this school-year working as a pre-kindergarten blended teacher in the public schools. I had the opportunity to ask Andrea a few questions about her experience.

AL: Describe your role this year in the school setting.

AB: I have spent this year teaching a blended pre-k class. I have 16 students (8 general education and 8 with special needs). I have two assistants in the room with me.

AL: What has been the biggest challenge for you this year?

AB: The biggest challenge this year has been classroom management. Managing 16 students, all with different needs, as well as two adults, has taken a lot of trial and error. As a speech-language pathologist, I was used to working with students in a small group of no more than 3 or 4. Trying to hold the attention of 16 pre-schoolers all at the same time, while also giving the special attention to the children with special needs, and managing two adults has been challenging.

AL: How do you use your speech-language pathology training in your current role?

AB: My classroom is set up like an all day language therapy session. I feel more comfortable with my students with special needs because, as a speech-language pathologist, that is where my background is. The same techniques I use to work on language goals with my students with special needs are used with the whole class.

AL: How does your current role change your view of SLPs in the schools?

AB: My view on SLPs in the school has changed somewhat. I’ve seen from the other side this year how much they have on their plates and how they have to work their schedules around the schedules of everyone else in order to fit in their therapy time around meetings, class schedules, etc.

AL: What will you take away from this experience?

AB: I will take away a lot more admiration for teachers and everything that they have to do in a day. I see now why they may not always be so excited to send their students out of class for therapy at certain times of the day because it “throws a wrench” in their schedule. As a therapist, I understand why related service providers have to sometimes rearrange their schedules due to meetings, testing, etc. This experience, however, has helped me understand why teachers are not always cooperative about changes in a schedule by a therapist. When schedules are changed and/or students miss class time, the teacher is responsible for having the student make up what he/she has missed. If a child misses an art project or a class assignment, for example, because of therapy, additional work is placed on the teacher to find time to have him or her do the work later. Teachers have certain standards of learning that they must meet in an academic year, so class time is valuable.

I have enjoyed this experience immensely because I have learned so much about the “other side” of providing services within a school setting. I will miss my kids very much and will never forget how much they have taught me.

Save the Date for 2011 Convention

Tracks to Knowledge
Convention 2011

October 27 & 28
2011 TAASLP/ TAA Annual Convention
“Tracks to Knowledge”
Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel
Chattanooga, TN

Send speaker suggestions
to conference11@taaslp.org.
Why I Joined TAA

by Whitney Mauldin, AuD

Note: The Tennessee Academy of Audiology (TAA) is a subgroup of TAASLP for audiologists in all settings in the state of Tennessee.

I first joined our state organization as a graduate student around 1994 at the encouragement of Dr. Jim Thelin. Dr. Thelin and Dr. Lisa Rogers, my mentor from SC, both encouraged me to become an active member in my state and both taught me that not only was it my responsibility, but my duty to myself and the profession I loved to be educated about local, state and national issues facing audiology.

I remember watching how Lisa was so involved in what was going on in SC, how she worked diligently to affect changes in legislation for services for patients, licensure and scope of practice issues for audiologists and how she worked to educate anyone she came into contact with about Audiology and the importance our profession.

Around 2004, I was approached by Dr. Laura Gifford to consider running for a board position for TAA and although I was skeptical about what I could offer, I said "yes." And WOW, it has been aWONDERFUL experience! I've made so many new friends, developed close relationships with some GREAT audiologists (and yes some speechies too), developed professional contacts all over the state, learned so much more about the legislative process, really worked to help grow our profession, and learned that I have to actively participate in educating local and state officials to effectively assist in making changes both on a local and state level before I can ever make a bigger dent nationally!

If I hadn’t become involved in TAA for myself and my profession then how could I ask anyone else and if I’m not willing to give some of myself to see that the profession grows in a responsible manner then how can I expect anyone else to do it for me. We ALL owe it to ourselves and our profession to be active participants in OUR future!
Call for Nominations for TAASLP Awards

Do you know someone who is meritorious of recognition as an outstanding professional in the field of audiology or speech-language pathology?

Below, you will find a description of each award. Please review the information and guidelines for nomination and take this opportunity to submit a colleague’s name for consideration. The application for nomination available by clicking here.

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – This award is presented to a member of TAASLP who has made significant contributions to the professions, over a lifetime. The contributions do not have to necessarily be to the Association.
- **Honors of the Association** – This award is presented to a member of TAASLP for outstanding service, dedication and exemplary contributions to Association and to the professional development of audiology and/or speech-language pathology in Tennessee.
- **The Public Schools Incentive Award** – This award is presented to a member or associate member of TAASLP who provides and/or facilitates innovative or exceptional communication services to children in a public school system in Tennessee.
- **The Distinguished Service Award** – This award may be presented to a member of TAASLP or non-member(s) residing in Tennessee in recognition of a significant contribution or contributions to speech, language, and hearing on a statewide and/or national level.

The nomination packet must include forms completed by the primary nominator and accompanied by two supporting nominations. The three nominators must be members of TAASLP.

The following information must be included:
- Name of the award for which the individual is being nominated.
- Nominee’s name, address, phone and fax numbers, e-mail address.
- Nominators’ names, addresses, phone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses.

Justification for nominations must include descriptions of the individual’s outstanding contributions with consideration given to:
- Service to TAASLP
- Service to the Profession(s)
- Clinical Service
- Teaching
- Research/Publications
- Administrative Service

Please limit justification to two typed pages.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2011.**
Questions? Contact Marion Hammett @ mhhammet@memphis.edu

Mid South Conference

**UNIVERSITY NEWS**

by Sharon A. Roehrig with information provided by Julie Marshall and Katie Isbell

On February 24th and 25th the NSSLHA chapter at the University of Memphis put on the 41st annual Midsouth Conference on Communicative Disorders. The entire student body participated and the conference was deemed a huge success. There were 685 registrants and 31 excellent speakers including Eddyte Strand, Barbara Hodson, Gus Mueller, Christine Yoshinaga-Ito, and Lou Rossetti, as well as many local experts in the professions. Sadly Jeri Logemann had to cancel due to illness. Attendees to the keynote luncheon were impressed and awed by Amie Stringfellow, an MD who has Treacher Collins Syndrome.
The students remained poised and professional despite speaker cancellations and tornado warnings which delayed the start of the speakers' dinner Thursday evening. The students received compliments from attendees and speakers alike regarding the quality of the conference and the smooth manner in which it operated. In support of the Study Abroad trip to the Dominican Republic during spring break, the Silent Auction raised almost $2500.

The students managed the conference from start to finish, from picking speakers up at the airport to cleaning up and unloading the truck at the end of the conference, long after everyone had gone home. Hours of effort, both seen and unseen, are devoted to the conference by the NSSLHA board members and all of the UM AUSP students, including many doctoral students.

Coming Soon: the program at the University of Memphis will soon change its name from the School of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders to reflect its commitment to scientific research.

Welcome to Dean Noma Anderson

Dr. Noma Anderson, a speech-language pathologist and 2007 ASHA President, began her tenure as Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences, UT Health Sciences Center on July 1, 2010.

Dr. Anderson has been welcomed and well-received by allied health disciplines throughout the state. The academic and clinical faculties of the University of Tennessee Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology enthusiastically welcome Dr. Anderson as the ASP department, which is still located in Knoxville, TN, came under the administration of the College of Allied Health Sciences, located in Memphis, TN, in July 2009. Technology allows the department and the other College of Allied Health Sciences units to engage and communicate even though Knoxville and Memphis are almost 400 miles apart.

In a recent address Dr. Anderson stated, “This is an exciting time for allied health disciplines. Health care change makes the programs in the College increasingly important to the state and nation because of our ability to significantly improve patient outcomes. As you know, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language and hearing scientists have crucial roles in the health care arena.”

The members of TAASLP welcome Dr. Anderson and look forward to a collaborative relationship.