



**SUMMER  
2011**



**CSHA SPRING CONFERENCE 2011**

**SUMMER 2011**

**Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association, Inc.**

**124 Kennerson Road**

**Eastford, CT 06242**

**860-377-9066**

**[csa@ctspeechhearing.org](mailto:csa@ctspeechhearing.org)**

**[www.ctspeechhearing.org](http://www.ctspeechhearing.org)**

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**CSHA NEWS** is posted three times a year by the Connecticut-Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Views expressed in **CSHA NEWS** represent the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

**To Advertise In The CSHA Newsletter**

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#### **EDITOR'S CORNER**

The editor of **CSHA** wants to hear from you. Professional issues and news, articles, questions, kudos, feedback, reviews, and graphic works which are of interest to a significant portion of our members should be sent to the editor. All articles and reports of factual information may be edited to conform to space and format specifications and to improve clarity without permission of the authors. Expressions of opinion as in editorials and letters to the editor may be edited only with the writer's consent. Unsigned articles or letters will not be printed.

#### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

Spring Issue Deadline—January 10th

Summer Issue Deadline—May 10th

Fall Issue Deadline—September 10th

#### **WE'VE GONE GREEN!!!!**

Our website is our primary communication mode-allowing rapid access to information, on-line membership and course registration and vast opportunities for coordinated efforts as we all seek to advocate for our professions.

**ANY PROBLEMS????**

**Don't know username??**

**Email CSHA at: [csa@ctspeechhearing.org](mailto:csa@ctspeechhearing.org)**

**Know username but don't know password?**

**Retrieve the password in the log-in page by clicking "RETRIEVE NOW. It will be immediately emailed to you.**

# President's Message

## Rhea Paul

**CSHA's** 61<sup>st</sup> year is off to a great start with an extremely successful Spring Conference. Over 120 attended excellent talks, exhibits, and a lovely awards lunch, at which we presented the Association Distinguished Service Award to Barbara Bard for her many years of service to the organization and the Foundation. The Foundation makes possible the awarding of scholarships to students at SCSU and UConn each year at the conference, and this year was no exception, thanks to the generous donations made by **CSHA** members. When you renew your membership this year, please consider making a contribution to the Foundation so we can continue this proud tradition.

This year's conference was overseen by our co-Vice Presidents for Program, Cyndi Trueheart and Ellen Horowitz, who deserve a great deal of credit for their admirable job. Ellen and Cyndi are both stepping down from this position, and Holly Prentice has very generously agreed to take on this important job. Sherry Ellis, who served as VP for Program, as well as on the Program Committee for many years, has agreed to join Holly as co-chair. **CSHA** is very grateful to all these members who have given so much of their time and energy to putting on successful conferences that are such a great benefit to our membership.

At our recent Business Meeting, which took place at the Spring Conference and was attended by several **CSHA** members, in addition to our Board, Liz Schoen Simmons was installed for a second term as Recording Secretary, and Susan Munroe for a second term as Vice President for Public Information. Deep gratitude goes to these individuals for their dedication to **CSHA**. Next year the offices of President, Vice President for Planning, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, and Treasurer will be open. Please consider increasing your involvement with **CSHA** by putting yourself forward for one of these open positions. Feel free to contact me :

[President@ctspeechhearing.org](mailto:President@ctspeechhearing.org)

or our Nominations Chair, Jane Seibert [myengset@comcast.net](mailto:myengset@comcast.net) to talk about volunteering for one of these upcoming vacancies. We strongly encourage any member of **CSHA** to consider Executive Board membership.

March 16 saw a return of **CSHA** to Hartford for our second annual Student Lobby Day. VP for Governmental Affairs Mallory Buckingham, organized a fascinating day in which we heard from one of our legislators, role played lobbying a Legislator, and then fanned out to meet with legislators to discuss bills of importance to our members and clients (See VP Buckingham's report). Students from both SCSU UConn, as well as **CSHA** Board members

## President's Message continued

and members at large participated and earned CEUs at this event in which we really get a chance to see how our laws are made and how we can influence them.

At the national level, Connecticut can take pride in our Sen. Richard Blumenthal who recently co-sponsored legislation to help individuals with hearing loss purchase hearing aids. The bipartisan Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act seeks to provide a \$500 credit for the purchase of hearing aids for both adults and children. Write to Sen. Blumenthal to thank him for his support of this legislation at

<http://blumenthal.senate.gov/contact/>

One recent disappointment was the decision by the Governor to discontinue the search for the position of Educational Consultant for Speech-Language Pathology in the Bureau of Special Education. As you may know, Carolyn Isaakson held this position until she retired four years ago. She was not replaced, resulting in a lack of guidance and leadership for SLPs in CT schools. Although we were very hopeful when the SDE re-opened this position and attracted several fine applicants, the position was closed just as the search was ending a few weeks ago. Although CSHA is deeply distressed at this development, we will continue to lobby to re-instate this position at the earliest possible date.

**CSHA** works every day for you, but we need your help. Your dues allow us not only to provide continuing education, but to monitor legislation and act quickly to protect your interests at the state and national levels. Just log on to our improved website [www.ctspeechhearing.org](http://www.ctspeechhearing.org) to join. You'll find it's easier to navigate than ever, but if you have any trouble at all, don't hesitate to call or email our Office Manager, Don Munroe, who can be reached by phone at 860-377-9066 or by Email at [CSHA@ctspeechhearing.org](mailto:CSHA@ctspeechhearing.org). He is more than glad to help you. E-mail works best, but if you include a phone # he can call you back and talk you through the process over the phone. Please encourage all your colleagues to join **CSHA** so we can represent the broadest segment of our professions. I look forward to seeing many of you at Fall Conference.

**Keep communicating!**

**Rhea Paul**

**June 14, 2011**

# **CONNECTICUT SPEECH AND HEARING FOUNDATION**

## ***Top Ten Reasons To Support the Connecticut Speech and Hearing Foundation***

- 1.** Each year the Foundation must raise at least four thousand dollars in scholarships to award to students preparing to be speech pathologists or audiologists.
- 2.** These students are currently enrolled at The University of Connecticut or Southern Connecticut State University.
- 3.** All monies contributed to the Foundation are tax deductible.
- 4.** Tuition and book costs are significantly higher each year.
- 5.** Approximately 99% of all contributed monies are used for these scholarships.
- 6.** The entire Board is made up of volunteers who receive no compensation for their service.
- 7.** Our goal is to get a \$10.00 contribution from every speech pathologist and audiologist in Connecticut.
- 8.** We need to show our support of the professions by encouraging young people who are now enrolled in school.
- 9.** Former scholarship recipients are now working at many sites in Connecticut.
- 10.** You will be doing the right thing!!!!

Send contributions to: Connecticut Speech and Hearing Foundation

124 Kennerson Road Eastford, CT 06242

*Connecticut Speech and Hearing Foundation*

*Greatly appreciates the following generous donors*

*Karen Poggi*

*Diana Newman*

*Mary Jane Richilson*

*Susan Shaffer-Bartley*

*Donna Cawley*

*Jennifer Araujo*

*Susan Bartlett*

*Jane Jachym*

*Mary Donnelly*

*Laura Duchnowski*

*Joy Donaldson*

*Amy Dole*

*Barbara Bard*

*Carolyn Isakson*

*Audrey Tumpowsky*

*Bianca Volles*

*Bonnie Legg*

*Denise Carrabetta*

*Diantha Morse*

*Anthony Malavenda*

*Rhea Paul*

*Carl Coelho*

*Maria Groody*

*Nancy Cirimo*

*Ann Chuk*

*Valerie Coppola*

*JoAnn Forman*

*Maresa Harvey*

*Kim Hapken*

*Susan Breslau*

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*Ronda Merriman*

*Kathleen Insler*

*Kevin McNamara*

*Andy Lees*

*Marianne Kennedy*

*Carol Landsman*

*Myra Watnick*

*Linda Chipkin*

**Won't you consider joining this list?**



**CONNECTICUT SPEECH AND HEARING FOUNDATION  
AWARDS**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING SPEECH-LANGUAGE  
PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY STUDENTS FROM UCONN AND SCSU  
SELECTED TO RECEIVE THIS YEAR'S FOUNDATION AWARDS. AWARDS  
WERE PRESENTED AT THE 2011 SPRING CONFERENCE.**

***KENNETH T. GIST PROMISING PROFESSIONAL AWARD***

UCONN    **Siyuan Chen**                      SCSU **Megan DeRita**  
**Aisha O'Gilvie**

***CONNECTICUT SPEECH AND HEARING FOUNDATION SCHOLAR-  
SHIP AWARD***

UCONN    **Brittney Dullard**                      SCSU **Tammy Lawrence**  
**Rachel Hurley**

***GERALDINE GARRISON AWARD***

UCONN    **Jennifer Gonzalez**                      SCSU **Christina Dorchinsky**  
**Lindsey Finlayson**

***ANTONIA BRANCIA MAXON CLINCIAN/SCHOLAR AWARD***

**(UConn)**

**Susan Kelleher**

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Lobby Day Held on March Sixteenth

Our first Lobby Day in April 2010 was a great success so **CSHA** decided to have another one this year. We met in the State Capitol on March sixteenth. An educational program that included information on the legislative process, **CSHA's** legislative history and a presentation by State Representative Gregory Haddad of Mansfield prepared attendees for meetings with their own representative or senator. ASHA CEUs were available for attendees who completed the day's activities. Both **CSHA** members and students from UCONN and SCSU participated in the event. We want to thank lobbyist, Kate Robinson, our primary contact from the lobbying firm of Betty Gallo and Company for helping us with arrangements and scheduling. Those who attended felt they gained a better understanding of the legislative process and the legislative issues in which **CSHA** is involved.

The **CSHA** Board has decided to hold another Lobby Day during the 2012 General Assembly session. If you are interested in helping with or attending the event please contact Vice-President for Legislative Affairs Mallory Buckingham [VPGovt@ctspeechhearing.org](mailto:VPGovt@ctspeechhearing.org)

Bills that the Lobby Day attendees discussed with their state senator or state representative were bills which **CSHA** had been following since early in the session. The General Assembly session ended on June .eighth. The final status of those bills is summarized below. For full information on each one please go to [CT General Assembly.gov](http://CTGeneralAssembly.gov) and enter the number of the bill. You will find a complete history of each bill simply by entering the number of the bill you want to search.

**SB 20** proposed adding individuals ages fifty-five to sixty-five to the legislation that already provides some insurance coverage for hearing aids for children ages twelve and under. **CSHA** was hoping to find a sponsor to amend the bill to provide cover-age for children up to eighteen years of age. **The bill was not amended to cover older children and eventually died in the Appropriations Committee. Children ages twelve and under still have hearing aid insurance coverage as the law requiring that coverage was not affected.**

**Bill 1038** proposed a number of changes to existing special education law. Many of these proposed changes originated from the work of the IEP Task Force appointed by the General Assembly's Education Committee in 2010. While **CSHA** was not represented on the task force we were aware of the recommendations being made by the committee and so **CSHA** followed Raised Bill 1038. **CSHA** opposed two parts of the bill; one requiring that diagnostic reports used to determine eligibility be received by parents five days before the PPT and two, requiring that parent and professional meet to discuss the content of the report prior to the PPT.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Continued

We opposed those sections on the grounds that SLPs have the largest caseloads, but are chronically and significantly understaffed (Dept. of Education finding). Although we agree the wording is best practice and districts with adequate staffing are able to meet these deadlines, those with too few professionals should not be penalized. And with the severe cuts to school budgets due to this severe recession, they cannot afford the fines these type of 'procedural errors' will trigger.

We asked ASHA do an email blast for us on this subject and we thank everyone who contacted their senator or representative. **CSHA** members Joan McNulty and Julie Giaccone testified in front the Education Committee in February stressing that getting reports to parents five days before the PPT and two, requiring that parent and professional meet to discuss the content of the report prior to the PPT, is a good practice but there are many factors which professionals cannot control that can get in the way of getting reports out early and holding additional meetings. The bill did make it out of committee. **The bill was amended in several ways and eventually passed in the Senate. The bill was sent on to the House where it was not brought up for a vote and so died there.**

Bill 6549 was introduced by the Co-chairs of the Public Health Committee, Representative Elizabeth Ritter and Senator Theresa Gerratana. The intent of this bill was to change the process used to develop or modify professional scopes of practice. Representative Ritter and Senator Gerratana wanted a better way to gather information and resolve disagreements between professional groups over scope of practice issues before they get to the Public Health Committee. On Lobby Day **CSHA** Past-President Vernice Jury met individually with both committee chairs to discuss the bill which would hopefully prevent us from experiencing a situation similar to the 2009 effort by the Connecticut Ear Nose & Throat Society to remove the word "diagnose" from our scope of practice. All our questions and concerns about the bill were addressed in further revisions and amendments to it. **The bill passed in both the House and Senate and is waiting for Governor Malloy's signature.** This bill will require us to do more work before proposing revisions to the speech-language pathology or audiology scope of practice but it also prevents other groups from introducing legislation without our knowledge and without allowing adequate time to organize our response to a proposal.

**If you have questions or want to be involved in CSHA's legislative activities please contact VP for Governmental Affairs Mallory Buckingham at [VPGovt@ctspeechhearing.org](mailto:VPGovt@ctspeechhearing.org).**

## **CSHA Program Committee Updates**

### **Co-chairs**

**Ellen Horowitz, VP for Educational Programs**

**elhspeech@msn.com**

**Cyndi Trueheart, VP for Educational Programs**

**cyndi.trueheart@va.gov**

The **Connecticut Speech, Language, Hearing Association** Program Committee is happy to report that the 2011 Spring Conference held on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> at Central Connecticut State University was once again a big success. The Program Committee is constantly revising the format to bring the most practical, up-to-date programs to our members. We believe that our conferences provide an opportunity for speech-language pathologists and audiologists to obtain the latest information in an atmosphere that promotes collaboration and communication among its attendees.

This year we were delighted to have John D. Molteni, Ph.D., leading a panel discussion on “BCBAs and SLPs: Working Together to Improve Communication” and Rhea Paul, Ph.D., leading a panel discussion on “Emerging Assistive Technology Lecture/Demonstration”. We also had William H. Shapiro, Au.D. who presented on “Expanding Criteria in Cochlear Implantation” on Thursday night. On Friday, the presentations continued with Karole Howland, Ph.D. discussing “Developing Executive Control Skills in Children with Language and Learning Disorders” and Kathryn Bayles talking about “Treating Cognitive-Communication Disorders: Evidence from Neuroplasticity Research”. In addition, we had several poster sessions from local researchers and students sharing a wide variety of interesting studies taking place throughout the state.

The program committee will be meeting in the months to come to analyze the written feedback and discuss plans for the Fall Mini-Conference. We recognize that the Fall Mini-Conference has become very popular and we are working diligently to bring interesting programs to **CSHA** members throughout the year. We are also meeting with neighboring states in hopes for a joint conference possibly in the Spring 2012. Please visit the **CSHA** website regularly for updates on these exciting events.



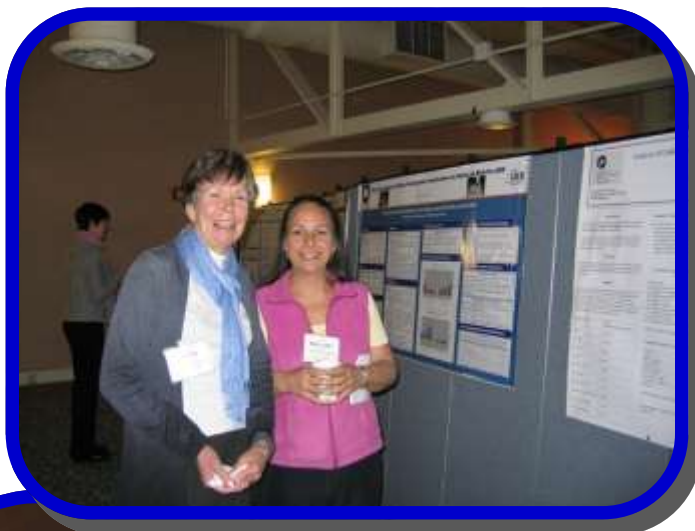
## EDITOR'S NOTE

All of us on the Executive Board and the Program committee thank **Ellen Horowitz and Cyndi Trueheart**, Co-VPs for Educational Programs, for all their hard work and dedication to the **CSHA** Program committee as they exit this position. Both have continually provided a wealth of information to help make our conferences a success and will be missed. Ellen has agreed to stay on the committee to provide assistance as we welcome our new Co-VPs, Holly Prentice and Sherry Ellis. Holly is a speech-language pathologist in the medical community and will be a great addition to our group. She has already provided us with insight for programs that are of interest to the hospital and private practice members. Sherry has served as VP for Programs and a member of the Program Committee and we welcome her expertise and experience.

ELLEN AND CYNDI, THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND FOR MAKING OUR CONFERENCES A SUCCESS!!!!!!



**CSHA SPRING  
CONFERENCE  
2011**







**CSHA** SPRING  
CONFERENCE  
2011



# SCHOOL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## JUNE 2011 UPDATE

Chairperson: Susan Edwards [ssedw@cox.net](mailto:ssedw@cox.net)

SAC members have completed revisions of their powerpoint, "The Role of the SLP in CT Schools". The updated versions (with/without art) can be found on the School Affairs section of the CSHA website. The primary change is the inclusion of specific language addressing the SLP's role in SRBI. As always, we ask that you give us feedback if you use the powerpoints to make a presentation. Feedback forms are on the web and will be available at CSHA conferences.

As of Jan.1, 2011, The CT State Department of Education began requiring an EIN number for awarding all SDE CEUs. Social Security numbers are no longer necessary. If you have not already received your EIN # from your local district, please contact the SDE via their website:

<http://sdeportal.ct.gov/CECSFOI/FOILookup.aspx>

You can also call their offices or contact your HR department.

SAC would like to acknowledge members who attended meetings during the past school year: Karen Poggi, Joan McNulty, Sheila Way, Judianne Coster, Richard Zipoli, Jane Siebert and Vernice Jury.

**Have a great summer!**

**CSHA is on Facebook!**







# THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

The **University of Connecticut Department of Communication Sciences** congratulates all of our 2011 Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology graduates! Graduates, accompanied by family and friends, were honored at a ceremony held at UConn's Dodd Center on May 7, 2011. During the ceremony, the following awards were presented:

**Shannon Palmer, Au.D., Ph.D.** – Mark Ross Outstanding Audiology Graduate Student

**Kacie Wittke, M.A.** – Susan Bartlett Outstanding Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Student

Following the ceremony, faculty hosted a reception at the Speech and Hearing Clinic. Congratulations and very best wishes to all our graduates!





# UConn 2011 Graduates



Speech-Language Pathology



Audiology



## THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

### CONTINUED

**Karen Le** and **Jennifer Mozeiko**, speech-language pathology Ph.D students, were awarded NIH fellowships for the Clinical Aphasiology Conference.

**Shannon Palmer**, audiology AuD/Ph.D. student was awarded an NIH fellowship to attend the American Auditory Society.

#### Graduate student publications:

**Mozeiko, J., Le, K., Coelho, C., Grafman, J., & Krueger, F.** (2011). The relationship of story grammar and executive function following TBI. *Aphasiology*, 25, 826-835.

**Le, K., Coelho, C., Mozeiko, J., Krueger, F., & Grafman, J.** (2011). Measuring Goodness of Story Narratives: Implications for Traumatic Brain Injury. *Aphasiology*, 25, 748-760.

**Le, K., Coelho, C., Mozeiko, J., & Grafman, J.** (2011). Measuring goodness of story narratives. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 54, 118-126.

**Wilson, E. & Spaulding, T.** (2010). Effects of noise and speech intelligibility on listener comprehension and processing of Korean-accented English. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 53: 1543 – 1554

**Mozeiko, J., Le, K., & Coelho, C.** (2010). Traumatic brain injury. In: J. Damico, M. Ball, & N. Muller (Eds.) *Handbook of language and speech disorders* (pp. 577-599). Boston: Wiley-Blackwell Publishers.

The **4th Annual CAPD Boot Camp** will be held at the University of Connecticut, July 25-27. Contact Frank Musiek at [frank.musiek@uconn.edu](mailto:frank.musiek@uconn.edu) for more information.

**Frank Musiek** gave a keynote address at the European Federation of Audiology Societies, Warsaw , Poland , June 24.

The UConn Speech and Hearing Clinic in conjunction with the International Teaching Assistant Programs offered classes this spring to a group of international students planning to become instructors. The classes were to help them improve and clarify their English speaking skills and were offered on both an individual and group basis. Graduate student clinicians met with the international students and addressed in mini teaching lessons, vocabulary in their course of study (such as correct pronunciation of elements on the periodic table for chemistry students), vowels and unfamiliar phonemes. The group session included discussions about American culture, slang and idioms and addressed everything from driving lessons and American Idol to leprechauns. The general concensus at the end of the semester was that all had benefitted from the program: the international students were speaking English with improved skill and the graduate students had had the pleasure of meeting people from other countries who shared their cultures and academic backgrounds with them.





## SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Southern CT State University Department of Communication Disorders is pleased to announce the appointment of two new faculty members who will begin their employment in the fall semester. **Dr. Richard Zipoli** earned a Ph.D. in special education from the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut. His doctoral emphasis area was learning and reading disabilities, and he participated on technical assistance, research, and external evaluation teams serving urban school districts throughout the state. Dr. Zipoli holds Masters degrees and licenses in speech-language pathology and physical therapy, as well as a certificate of competence in assistive technology. His areas of interest include developmental disorders of language and literacy, phonological and motor speech disorders, and service delivery in high-need schools.

**Dr. Kelly Mabry** earned her Ph.D. in Communication Disorders from the University of Connecticut in 2002 and holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from SCSU in 1986 and 1988. Dr. Mabry's career passion is craniofacial disorders. She has been part of Craniofacial Teams since her CFY in 1988 and is currently a member of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center Craniofacial Team in Hartford. As a medical volunteer for Operation Smile, Dr. Mabry recently completed her first mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her research interests center around Craniofacial science and she is currently involved in exploring surgical outcomes of children with velopharyngeal insufficiency related to 22q11.2 deletion syndrome. She has taught adjunct courses at SCSU, UConn, Central Connecticut State University and Northern Arizona University.





## SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

### continued

**Dr. James Dempsey** was one of only nine professionals from the United States to participate on a select international panel of professionals who brainstormed the topic of “Living Well with Hearing Loss” at the Ida Institute, Skodsborg, Denmark, March 7th – 9th, 2011. Dr. Dempsey was also an invited professional presenter at the Sixth International Adult Aural Rehabilitation Conference, St. Pete’s Beach, FL, May 24th, 2011. Dr. Dempsey presented a paper entitled, “A Three-Week Group Hearing Aid Orientation Program – Lessons Learned.”

**Dr. Jonathan Preston** was recently awarded a grant from the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Foundation of North America to conduct a treatment study with school-age children (ages 9-14 yrs) with childhood apraxia of speech. The study is a collaborative effort between SCSU and Haskins Laboratories. The project will use ultrasound (the same device used to image a fetus or a heart) to provide children with a visual display of their tongue while they talk. This display will be used to cue the children to change their tongue configuration, and to coordinate lingual movements during speech. In addition, the study will explore neurobiological (electrophysiological) differences in the brains of children with CAS.

Graduation was celebrated by thirty-two Southern Connecticut State University Department of Communication Disorders students. Following a gala breakfast, students received their diplomas in a beautiful graduation ceremony. Graduates have a lot to celebrate; despite the weak overall economy and job market, opportunities appear to be abundant for SLPs. Many graduates have already taken positions in a variety of settings and many others have upcoming interviews. The department wishes them well in their future endeavors,.

**Alumni are invited to join the SCSU CMD Facebook page at:**

**<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=65566819666>**

## **This update focuses on ASHA's New Associates Program.**

The full text of this update can be found on the ASHA website.

The discipline of communication sciences and disorders (CSD) is rapidly changing with the advent of new technologies, medical breakthroughs, and changes in insurance and billing practices. Audiologists and speech-language pathologists are faced with the demands of serving ever-increasing client populations and having to provide more and more data to justify procedures and treatment outcomes. This environment is putting more pressure on our professions to look for ways to expand services without sacrificing the quality of patient care. One outcome of that reality is the increase in use of support personnel. ASHA believes that an integral part of any strategy to protect the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology must address the increased usage of support personnel to ensure that the integrity of the scope of practice of the professional is preserved and the welfare of the clients seeking services is held paramount. ASHA's Board of Directors believes that the time is right for ASHA to take a leadership role in this arena and reach out to support personnel in the hopes of building partnerships and strategic alliances between CSD professionals and the support staff they supervise. As a result, in 2010, the Board decided to create a new nonmember affiliation category called Associates for audiology and speech-language-pathology support personnel. Though individuals joining ASHA as Associates will have a number of valuable benefits, they will not have the same rights as members. For example, they will not be able to vote or hold elected office.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

The Associates Program is open to individuals who are:

Currently employed in support positions providing audiology or speech-language pathology assistant services, working under the supervision of an ASHA certified audiologist (CCC-A) or speech-language pathologist (CCC-SLP). Potential applicants will be required to obtain the signature of their ASHA certified supervisors in order to become ASHA Associates. OR..... If applicants are not employed as audiology assistants or speech-language pathology assistants at the time they apply for the Associates Program, they will have to obtain the signature of their program director (or training program instructor) certifying that they are qualified to provide services under the direction of an ASHA certified audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

In addition to obtaining the appropriate signature(s), potential Associates will also have to meet the following requirements:

- Applicants will have to agree to follow all ASHA policies related to the responsibilities of support personnel.
- Applicants will have to agree to work only under the supervision of ASHA certified SLPs or audiologists.
- Applicants will have to pay annual fees to maintain their affiliation.
- Applicants will also have to be qualified to practice in their state and follow the state licensure rules (if any) that are applicable to them.



## ASHA's New Associates Program continued

Current Timeline for the Associates Program Since August 2010, several activities regarding the Associates Program have taken place, and others are planned throughout 2011—culminating in the full launch of the program in September 2011. In May, a new Associates Program information page was launched on the main ASHA website and an e-mail was sent to encourage ASHA members working in school settings to invite their assistants or any assistants known to participate in the Associates Program free trial taking place from July 2011 through September 2011. To date, the offer has garnered nearly 300 participants and additional outreach is underway. For the remainder of 2011 a number of activities are planned as ASHA rolls out this new program:

- July 2011 – Associates Program free trial to begin.
- July 2011 – Reception at the 2011 ASHA Schools Conference for supervisors and their assistants.
- July 2011 – Inaugural issue of the e-newsletter for Associates, Associate Insights, to be launched.
- August 2011 – Brief survey to be sent to free trial participants to get feedback regarding the Associates Program promotion.
- September 2011 – Applications and fees will be accepted for Associate affiliation.
- October 2011 – Additional promotions encouraging assistants to join ASHA as an Associate and to attend the 2011 ASHA Convention with their supervisor.
- November 2011 – The 2011 ASHA Convention welcomes Associates with programming and opportunities to partner with their ASHA certified supervisors.

It's important to remember that ASHA is creating an affiliation category for support personnel in audiology or speech-language pathology for two primary reasons. First, we know that certified members want to grow and improve as professionals ... and when an effective partnership is created with those one supervises, everyone benefits. Second, we believe that those who work in a support role with the professions of audiology or speech-language pathology can benefit from a relationship with ASHA. The bottom line is that this new connection is intended to help members and assistants clarify and strengthen their relationships and improve their services to patients and clients.

Denise Van der Voort, M.A., CCC-SLP  
Department of Communication Sciences  
University of Connecticut



State Medicare Administrative Contractor (SMAC) Network  
Alice Kowalsky ( [SMAC@ctspeechhearing.org](mailto:SMAC@ctspeechhearing.org) )

ASHA's State Medicare Administrative Contractor Network (SMAC) enhances and perpetuates the advocacy, leadership, and communication of ASHA members at the state level to influence administrative and public policy decisions that impact the Medicare coverage, reimbursement, and delivery of speech-language pathology services and audiology services.

**5/11/2011 Updates from SMAC meeting/discussion:**

- **Cochlear implant programming for home health patients.** First Coast MAC (Florida) is rejecting independent claims by audiologists, insisting that the services are consolidated with other home health services.

Meeting discussion: audiology has never been considered part of home health care, so basis of this is refuted.

- **TEP Update.** CMS refuses to make exceptions to DME/prosthetic policy

Meeting discussion: CMS is trying to reinstate an old rule that was never really put into effect. This is resulting in a loss to practices of about \$100 per patient. So far, otolaryngologists & manufacturers of TEPs have not gotten Medicare to increase the cost. There is more on this issue in the ASHA Leader.

- **Reasons for Additional Document Requests by MACs**

Meeting discussion: When denials are appealed to ALJ, even if these are successful, the scene is set for more denials. Advice: be strategic in your cases brought to ALJ. Advice by committee member: bring your most justified clinical cases to ALJ, rather than the ones that are the highest values.

- **National Health Reform & the future of Medicare.** Summary of mandated programs, demonstrations, and pilots

Meeting discussion:

1. ASHA will be working with a group that seeks innovation. New ideas for bundling of care, such as acute care covering the following 30 days after discharge under one cost. There is a pilot program going into effect 1/1/13. ASHA will work with an organization that represents Inpatient Rehab Hospitals.

2. Provider screening is going into effect for both Medicare & Medicaid, to say no to particular providers on ethical bases, and on basis of need in relation to population density.

3. Representative from ASHA are now working on a key committee, defining important terms to our favor (habilitation versus rehabilitation, for instance).

State Medicare Administrative Contractor (SMAC) Network  
Alice Kowalsky ( [SMAC@ctspeechhearing.org](mailto:SMAC@ctspeechhearing.org) )  
continued

New item: proposed regulations for SNFs, going into effect 10/1/11

1. Supervision of students under Med A. There will be no difference now between SNFs, hospitals & other settings. The requirement for line of sight supervision will be removed. However, the supervisor can not be treating other patients.

( Med B supervision requirements not yet reformed. Supervisor still has to be in the room, not engaged in other activity. ASHA is working with PT & OT associations on this.)

2. Group treatment rule states that groups must have 4 patients, not 3. If 3, must cancel group. CMS has asked for data on which groups of patients would benefit from groups.

New item: AAA (audiology group) published letter critical of ASHA. ASHA: Medicare should cover rehabilitation care by audiologists. AAA wanted direct access; ASHA wants care to be directed by MDs.

**NOMINATIONS FOR HONORS OF THE ASSOCIATION  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD AND SPECIAL CITATION**

Please check one:

Honors of the Association     Special Citation     Distinguished Service Award

Name of the Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Rationale for why this individual is being nominated: (clinical service programming; program developments; achievement in state or local organization or government agency activity; clinical teaching, research, or administration). **(Please use a separate sheet of paper)**

## CSHA ARCHIVES

**CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE IN THESE PHOTOS?  
CSHA TOTE BAG TO THE FIRST CORRECT RESPONSES!**

