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**Save the Dates!**  
2012 GSHA Convention  
February 10-11  
Crowne Plaza Perimeter Northwest

## From the Immediate Past President

*Melanie W. Hudson, M.A., CCC-SLP,  
GSHA President 2010-11*



The past year has been a very exciting one for me as President of GSHA. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and becoming acquainted with many of my fellow professionals throughout the state

during my coffee shop visits. These opportunities have allowed me to listen to your concerns, suggestions and ideas about how the association can better serve speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Georgia. I have also had the privilege of working with an amazing group of individuals who have volunteered their time, talents and even their personal resources to make our association a strong and effective presence within the state.

A critical component of maintaining that strong and effective presence is to work closely with our lobbyists from Nelson Mullins as they track important pieces of legislation and monitor issues related to our professions in the state legislature. During this past year they monitored tax code changes related to the sales of hearing aids, reimbursement rate cuts, Medicaid requirements, notification requirements for parents pertaining to Special Needs Scholarships for children receiving services in schools, and the creation of a stand-alone Department of Public Health for programs in Chapter 2A, Title 31 under which the Babies Can't Wait program will now fall. In

addition, they tracked HB 285 which passed and was sent to the Governor for his signature which requires the Professional Standards Commission to review its certification renewal rules to require demonstration of the impact of professional learning on educational performance and student learning. This bill also addresses the development of an on-line course on educator ethics with emphasis on best practices for administering state-mandated assessments, and requires the PSC to issue clearance certificates pertaining to fingerprints and criminal background checks. Because of our lobbyists, we know what the issues are, and are able to make a difference through our collective voice.

As a result of GSHA advocacy, Governor Nathan Deal declared May as Better Hearing and Speech Month in Georgia. This proclamation serves as a reminder to Georgia lawmakers and citizens alike the importance of the services that audiologists and speech-language pathologists provide in the state.

The GSHA convention was another highlight of the past year. It was held in Athens, GA in February and was a huge success! Our attendees were able to attend sessions on a wide variety of topics with nationally-recognized experts, see their fellow members honored for their contributions and

*See President on page 2*

*President from page 1*

professional achievements, and also enjoy the professional networking that only this type of gathering can provide. Since the ASHA convention will be held in Atlanta in November, 2012, we will be working closely with the ASHA convention committee to ensure a quality GSHA convention scheduled for February, 2012.

We continue to enjoy our activity on Facebook, Linked-In and on our member listserv. We will be working on improvements to the GSHA web site in the coming months, so stay tuned for updates on ways to find out what is going on with GSHA and how you can connect with your fellow GSHA members.

As our membership drive is currently in process, don't forget to renew your GSHA membership. Simply look through this issue of Communication Lines if you need a reminder of all of the benefits you receive from your membership! While you are at it, consider volunteering for a committee and take your service to the professional community to a whole new level.

As a final note, I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving as your President during the past year. As I assume the role of Past-President, I know you will join me in welcoming our new President, Kelly Ball, and our President-elect, Wendy Angel. They bring experience and passion to their volunteer work within the association, and are looking forward to your continued support as they take on the challenges and joys of leadership in GSHA!

## Babies Can't Wait Centralized Billing System

Earlier this year it was announced that a centralized billing system (to be know as BIBS) was being developed for the Babies Can't Wait program. GSHA representatives spoke with Mr. Anthony James (project manager) and Ms. Chase Bolds (BCW Program Manager) at that time to find out specifics of the system. Unfortunately, specifics were not available as the project was still in the development stage. Recently, Babies Can't Wait providers were requested to provide confidential information including billing ID numbers and bank information with no explanation of how the program will work or what is going to be done with this information. Obviously, this is a concern for providers and the tri-alliance reached out to the state office to try and get more specific information. The BCW state office indicated that monthly updates regarding the BIBS system were developed but it was acknowledged that many providers never received these updates.

Eileen Kaiser from BCW initiated a meeting to discuss the best way to distribute information to all the state therapy organizations which was held on June 10, 2011. The tri-alliance sent BCW a list of provider questions regarding the BIBS system in hopes of receiving some specific information regarding billing processes. Ms. Chase Bolds and Ms. Eileen Kaiser both from the BCW state office attended the meeting along with representatives from each state organization, Helen Sloat (GSHA's lobbyist) and Tom Bauer (GOTA's lobbyist). Ms. Bolds and Ms. Kaiser made it clear that they were not willing to discuss BIBS at

this meeting but would be sending out specific details about the billing system including the rates later that afternoon. The state BCW office was encouraged to send the state organizations any information that they would like distributed to BCW providers. In addition, opportunities/ideas for continuing education regarding the Primary Provider Model were discussed.

BCW Providers received an email from the state office on June 10, 2011 which included more specific details regarding the BIBS system along with a list of Frequently Asked Questions. However, GSHA members were disappointed that many of the questions submitted did not receive specific or knowledgeable answers that would have enabled members to feel comfortable with the new billing system. In addition, the new provider rate was not given. A video conference to further discuss the BIBS system and to answer provider questions was held on June 22. Information about how the system would work was provided but specific billing processes were not discussed in detail. In addition, only a few providers had a chance to ask questions at the end of the meeting leaving many providers feeling frustrated. The tri-alliance is continuing to reach out to BCW to get remaining questions answered.

Members can find specific information regarding the conference and information related to BIBS on the GSHA website under the "Tri-alliance News" tab. Please check back frequently to find out how the tri-alliance and our lobbyists are working for you.

# News from ASHA

## Possible HIPAA changes ahead:

- Enforcement changes include changes with civil penalties and complaints and compliance reviews.
- Civil Monetary Penalty Basis: a covered entity may be liable for the acts of its business associate; possibly requiring covered entities to conduct due diligence and audits on business associates to ensure they are in compliance with HIPAA.
- Civil Monetary Penalty Factors: wording in the rule would change from “previous violations” to “previous indications of noncompliance”
- Complaints and Compliance Reviews: a change in wording will allow the secretary of health and human services to proceed directly to formal enforcement without attempting informal resolution.
- Privacy Restriction Rights: covered entities are expected to make a “reasonable effort” to resolve the payment issue prior to sending the PHI to the health plan.
- Business Associates Agreements: a business associate be required to enter into a contract or other agreement with a subcontractor to protect the security of electronic PHI.

The ASHA Leader Vol. 16, No. 7. For further information contact: Kate Romanow, JD: [kromanaw@asha.org](mailto:kromanaw@asha.org).

## Grant announcements:

- Institute of Education Sciences (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education: due September 22, 2011 for projects that begin July 1 – September 1, 2012 with funding decisions announced no later than July 1, 2012. For more information, visit <http://ies.ed.gov/funding> or contact Catherine Clarke, director of education and regulatory advocacy: [cclarke@asha.org](mailto:cclarke@asha.org).
- 2011 Research Mentoring-Pair Travel Award Program:

designed to foster the professional development of students and emerging scientists who have a demonstrated interest in research careers in communication sciences and disorders. Application deadline is July 8, 2011. For more information visit [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org).



student/RMPTAward.htm or Margaret Rodgers at [mridgers@asha.org](mailto:mridgers@asha.org).

## What's on the calendar at ASHA:

Audiology Conference: October 12-21, 2011; online conference  
2011 ASHA Convention: November 17-19, 2011; San Diego, California

## Early Convention News:

- Convention Registration opens June 15, 2011
- Dynamic Learning Groups (DLG): opens in June
- Graduate School Fair registration is now open: early bird registration is available until September 13, 2011

Health Care/Business Institute: April 28-29, 2012; North Bethesda, Maryland

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*ASHA from page 3*

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## Photo with Governor Nathan Deal

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signs proclamation declaring May as Better Speech and Hearing Month in the state of Georgia. (Left to Right: Emily Wooten, Sarah Chaney, Pat Wahoske, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, Kelly Ball, and Debra Schober-Peterson.)

*\* Photo taken by Georgia Governor's Office*

# The Clinical Exchange

By Cathy Carney Thomas M.A. CCC-SLP

## Our Mission

The Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association is a professional association of individuals specializing in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human communication disorders that (a) advocates for the professional interests of its members and the individuals they serve, and (b) provides for the exchange of professional information and ideas.

## Our Vision

The Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association and its members shall be recognized as authorities in speech-language pathology and audiology at the local and state levels.

COMMUNICATION LINES is published three times a year by the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association (GSHA). The Editorial Committee welcomes and appreciates articles, news items, and comments. **The next submission deadline is September 15, 2011.**

Let us know if you have moved - please send or fax us your name, new address, and telephone number. Or, you can update your profile directly at [www.gsha.org](http://www.gsha.org).

Hello all, and welcome to summer as we know it in the south – hot, hot, and more hot weather. Hope all of you are doing well. For many, it is the time of vacations and time to catch up on reading. I am trying to keep current with the journals and research but throwing in a romance novel or two (especially while sitting on the beach). My garden is producing tomatoes and peppers; the squash is a few weeks away. Summer is upon us. I believe we can look forward to more of the same activity and weather. Each month brings something that we can do, learn, or participate in. Parkinson's awareness month has passed, and the usual flurry of discussion within the medical community has brought some aspects of the disease to our attention as speech and hearing professionals.

I had a request to discuss treatment for the dysarthria found in Parkinson's disease in this column. There are many techniques for dysarthria rehabilitation, but the one most frequently used for the patient with Parkinson's disease is the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT).

Parkinson's disease presents clinically with bradykinesia, muscle rigidity, and resting tremor. Nearly 90% of patients with Parkinson's disease (PD) will develop speech and swallowing disorders during the course of their progressive illness (Shapir, Ramig, & Fox, 2008).

Physicians will refer the Parkinson patient to a speech pathologist for the resultant hypokinetic dysarthria. Neuromuscular rigidity is the cause of the hypokinetic dysarthria. The patient exhibits moderate to severe reductions in intelligibility as well as reduced prosody, accelerated rate, reduced loudness, breathy phonation and reduced articulatory excursion. However, they do not distort the phonemes the way other dysarthric patients do, making traditional articulation therapy ineffective.



Older texts recommend doing range of motion exercises and exaggerated facial expressions to treat hypokinetic

dysarthria. Current approaches of pharmacologic, surgical or behavioral methods have yielded poor response and poor carryover of the speech skills after treatment. Skills acquired in the clinical setting are difficult to generalize into functional communication in daily living. A unique program known as LSVT has shown promise for producing long-term changes in vocal production in individuals with PD and hypokinetic dysarthria (Shapir et al., 2008). LSVT is the only treatment for PD supported by level I efficacy data (Spielman, Ramig, Halpern, & Gavin, 2007, p. 95).

Traditional articulation therapy has a hierarchy of treatments; however, LSVT takes it a bit further and has homework. There is a structured hierarchy of homework assignments

[See Exchange on page 6](#)

*Exchange from page 5*

that is the key difference in treatment efficacy for generalization outside the clinical setting. As a speech pathologist looking for a method that provides functional carryover and long-term results for the PD patient with hypokinetic dysarthria, investigation of the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment was the best place to start.

LSVT is taught through coursework to the clinician who becomes certified in the procedure. LSVT differs from other traditional approaches in the mode and the target of the treatment. LSVT teaches amplitude training through increased vocal loudness and promotes learning to rely on internal feedback and self-monitoring to carry the skill over to functional everyday conversations. LSVT includes intensive speech exercises and specific targets to facilitate generalization. The motor training involved promotes neural plasticity and brain reorganization. The program for LSVT is set up to be provided in four individual treatment sessions per week for four consecutive weeks. The patients are pushed to a vocal effort that is described as louder and longer. Homework is a key component of the treatment. It is mandatory to practice at home for 10 minutes on days specific treatment is received and 20 minutes on non-treatment days.

Well there you have it – LSVT in a nutshell. Recent studies have shown it can help improve the swallowing difficulty also seen with Parkinson’s. If you are interested in learning more about LSVT or becoming certified, information is available on the web.

If there is a topic of interest, a clinical question, or suggestion you would like to see in the next issue

of the Communication Lines, let us know at cathycarney2@aol.com. We will do our best to find answers to your questions and provide as much information as we can.

Shafir, S., Ramig, L., & Fox, C. (2008). Speech and Swallowing Disorders in Parkinson’s Disease. Current Opinion in Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, 16, 205-210.

Shafir, S., Spielman, J., Ramig, L., Story, B., & Fox, C. (2007). Effects of Intensive Voice Treatment (the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment [LSVT]) on vowel Articulation in Dysarthric Individuals with Idiopathic Parkinson’s Disease: Acoustic and Perceptual Findings. Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research, 50, 899-913.

**GSHA ADVERTISING RATES**

Full Page (7.5” x 10.25)  
\$275 per issue

1/2 Page Horizontal (7.5” x 4.75”)  
\$220 per issue

1/4 Page Square  
\$110 per issue



**GSHA Communications Committee Seeks Web Site Volunteers**

We are currently updating the GSHA website! If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the Communications Committee to help with this process, please e-mail Emily Wooten (emilywooten11@gmail.com).

**Call for Articles**

*Communication Lines* is a newsletter published electronically four times a year by the Georgia-Speech-Language-Hearing Association (GSHA).

**Information for Contributors:**

News items and position statements on current professional issues are invited for publication. Manuscripts must be typewritten, single-spaced and submitted on disk (or via e-mail) in Word or Works format. The name, address, and telephone number of the author must be included. Letters to the Editor should be 200 words or less. Unsigned letters will not be published. The author’s name may be withheld upon request if a valid reason is provided. GSHA reserves the right to keep any manuscript submitted and does not guarantee that all submissions will be published. GSHA also reserves the right to edit letters and articles for purposes of clarity and space.

**Permission to quote** a portion of any article in the issue is granted if credit is given to author(s) of the paper and the magazine.

Articles or news items may be sent to:

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Office: 1-800-226-4742  
E-mail: [execdir@gsha.org](mailto:execdir@gsha.org)



# The Sword of Darrow

To: GSHA Members  
From: Hal Malchow  
Subject: The Sword of Darrow  
Date: April 28, 2011

I am writing about a book I wrote with my then eight-year-old son that should be of interest to parents of children facing learning differences and to the professionals and teachers who work with them.

Our book, *The Sword of Darrow*, is a 350 page middle grade/young adult fantasy novel. The book grew out of stories my son, Alex, and I told together beginning when he was four years old. He would bring me characters and a situation, and we would take turns telling the stories. These stories became an obsession (one lasted almost twenty hours over a two week period). I also read him lots of books. At age eight, I read him *The Hobbit*. He was so excited by this story that he came to me and said, "Papa, let's not tell anymore me-you stories. Let's write a book." When he brought me this request, he had undiagnosed learning disabilities and could not read at all.

So I told him to bring me some characters and a situation which he did. It took us about a month to find the right plot twist. We outlined 25 chapters and started work. In all, it took us two years to finish the first manuscript. Last year, we signed a contract with BenBella books to publish the book.

To celebrate our accomplishment, we are giving all of the author

royalties to the International Dyslexia Association. Our publisher, Glenn Yeffeth, has a son who has ADHD, and he is giving a portion of his profits to LD organizations as well. In addition to the standard bookstore edition, we are printing a separate edition with larger type and more spacing that will be easier for kids with learning differences to read.

the book and answer questions. I finished the first three last week and they were fabulous.

Alex's story has a happy ending. He is now 16 and an honor roll student at St. John's College High School in Washington, DC. He was one of two sophomore starters on their highly regarded varsity football team this year.



We have undertaken a very innovative marketing program that has resulted in about 2100 reviews from kids all over the country. In describing the book, they have used words like "masterpiece," "word of art," and a number of them said it was the best book they have ever read. These reviews are posted on our website at [www.swordofdarrow.com](http://www.swordofdarrow.com). I am also doing an "Author in the Classroom" program where teachers who assign the book can reserve a time for me to appear in their class via Skype, talk about

The book was released June 7 and is available online and in some bookstores. For those wishing to buy the edition formatted for readers with learning differences, be sure to purchase the hard cover edition.

[www.swordofdarrow.com](http://www.swordofdarrow.com)

The Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association is an ASHA Recognized Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Below provides a description of the collaborative efforts between GSHA and ASHA.

## COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN ASHA AND ASHA RECOGNIZED SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATIONS

ASHA collaborates with speech-language-hearing associations to assist them in meeting the needs of their membership.

### **ASHA/State Association Communication**

Staff in the ASHA State Advocacy Unit facilitate interaction between ASHA and state associations via state staff liaisons designated for four regions of the United States and the Overseas Association. State advocacy liaisons provide information and assistance on legislative, regulatory and association administrative issues through regular contact via conference calls, e-mail and onsite assistance. Information helpful to state associations is also available on the legislation and advocacy section of the ASHA Web site. A special section on state associations provides an overview of each state, including links to state associations, state governments, regulatory agencies, characteristics of licensure laws, and teacher certification requirements.

Additionally, state associations may use various communication systems to relay information to ASHA and to assist in the promotion and publication of state association activities by ASHA. Communication vehicles may include:

- state association newsletters and promotional documents;
- e-mail;
- meeting summaries, actions, or minutes from a state association board or committee, or from general membership meetings;
- written information related to activities, events, accomplishments, issues, or concerns of the state association.



### **Programs and Resources**

ASHA programs and resources available to state associations include:

- technical assistance on advocating for state legislative and regulatory change;
- information on state trends in licensure, health, and education policy;
- education of legislators and key legislative staff on critical state issues during the annual meeting of the

### **National Conference of State Legislatures;**

- ASHA's collaborative effort with the Council of State Speech-Language-Hearing Association Presidents (CSAP) at the spring and fall meetings to provide information on federal and state public policy issues, trends, activities, administrative, and leadership issues;
- Discounted liability insurance for state association officers through the Association Professional Liability Insurance Plan;
- Three national-state networks:
  - State Education Advocacy Leaders (SEALs) to facilitate information exchange on state education issues;
  - the State Advocates for Reimbursement (STARs) to advocate with legislators, state insurance commissioners, health plans, unions, employers, and Medicaid officials on matters related to private health care plan and Medicaid reimbursement and coverage for audiology and speech-language pathology services;
  - the State Medicare Administrative Contractors (SMACs) to enhance communication and to perpetuate the

*See Collaborative on page 11*



# What's New At The "U"?

## **Armstrong Atlantic State University**

Greetings from Armstrong's Communication Sciences and Disorders Program!

The program says farewell to one of its exceptional part-time faculty members, Dr. Lynn Adams. Dr. Adams has been employed as an autism specialist in Effingham County Public Schools and recently published *Parenting on the Autism Spectrum: a Survival Guide*. We are saddened that Dr. Adams will be leaving Armstrong to join the faculty of Valdosta State in the fall. Best wishes, Dr. Adams, you will be missed!

EBS Healthcare selected Armstrong graduate student, Ebony Brown to participate in its International Outreach Program in Managua, Nicaragua this summer. This intensive two-week program will introduce Ebony to the ethics, process and vocabulary needed to work with Latino and Hispanic populations. This experience is an opportunity for Ms. Brown to grow in her clinical skills and learn more about Hispanic culture under the supervision of an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist.

## **Georgia State University**

Spring semester flew by and we are in the midst of a hot, but enriching summer session. Georgia State successfully celebrated

our Thirteenth Annual Summer Institute, Effective Strategies for Improving Functional Cognition and Communication in Dementia, on June 16-17. Dr. Michelle Bourgeois of The Ohio State University, an expert in the area of dementia, presented an exceptional day and a half Institute. Attendees received valuable information on the assessment and treatment of clients with dementia. Our Summer Institutes have become a tradition for GSHA members and Georgia State's students and alum – we are always thrilled to see so many of our colleagues each summer! Watch for information about our Fourteenth Annual Summer Institute to be held in June 2012.

Congratulations to our most recent graduate (May, 2011) Gina Mervis. We are proud that so many of our students and faculty received awards this past semester. Master's student Allison Blickman Lazin was selected by the Center for Childhood Communication of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) to participate in their RX for Success Student Conference. A limited number of graduate students from across the country are invited to attend and CHOP pays all costs associated with the event. The goal of the conference is to "attract and retain the very best talent in speech-language pathology" who are interested in pediatric medically-based settings. At the GSHA Convention in February, Dr. Jacqueline Laures-Gore received the Clinical Achievement Award for her work with the Atlanta Aphasia Association and master's student Meredith Gilbert was awarded the Jack Bess Memorial Scholarship. At the College of Education Honors Day in April, the following students received awards: Leigh Castleberry, Outstanding M.Ed. Graduate in Special Education; Michaela DuBay, Outstanding Master's Student

in Special Education; Torrie Souther, Outstanding Clinician in Communication Disorders; and Kellsie Currin, Carrie Forde, and Janet Williams all were awarded the Glenn A. Vergason Scholarship. Drs. Debra Schober-Peterson and Colleen O'Rourke's article *Essential Characteristics and Attributes of Speech-Language Pathologists* was published in the June issue of *Perspectives on Administration and Supervision*, the publication of ASHA's Special Interest Group 11. Congratulations to all!

The Georgia State NSSLHA chapter hosted its second annual job fair in spring semester. Representatives from school districts and contract rehabilitation companies met with students from several universities who were seeking jobs. If you or your facility would like an opportunity to recruit graduating students or if you will be looking for a job next year, watch for announcements about the date of the 2012 fair. NSSLHA members also will be serving as mentors for the 21 new master's students who are starting their graduate programs this summer and fall. The current students will welcome the incoming students with an all-day orientation program to be held on July 22nd. It will be exciting to have so many new students joining our program.

After over 17 years of serving as program coordinator at Georgia State, Dr. O'Rourke will return to her full-time faculty assignment and Dr. Laures-Gore will assume the responsibilities of program coordinator as of August 1, 2011. Speech-language pathologists who are interested in pursuing a research doctorate now have an opportunity to earn a Ph.D. here at Georgia State. For information contact Dr. Julie Washington at [jwashington@gsu.edu](mailto:jwashington@gsu.edu).

*See U on page 10*

# 2011-12 Executive Council

## **President**

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## **Lobbyists**

Stan Jones, Esq.

Helen Sloat

## U from page 9

For additional information about the graduate program in Communication Disorders at Georgia State University, please call 404-413-8044.

## **Valdosta State University**

Greetings from Valdosta State University. This spring and summer have been two productive semesters.

## **Student Spotlight!**

In the spring, we graduated over 24 students who have gone on to work for various school districts and medical facilities. Several students received honors at the College of Education Spring Awards ceremony. Karena Hall received Clinician of the Year, and Melanie Yeomans was runner up for Clinician of the Year. Outstanding Undergraduate Student was Alyssa Jacobson; Outstanding Graduate Student was Melanie Marchan; and Outstanding Student Teachers were Elizabeth James and Whitney Chitty. Several graduate students' research was also accepted for presentation at the Graduate School Symposium this past spring. Many of our students also attended the 2011 GSHA convention this year. VSU had over 32 students who presented their research at poster sessions. A number of students were moderators at various convention sessions.

This spring and summer, we have been blessed with a diverse graduate student program. Our students hail from states such as: Washington, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Ohio, New Jersey, and California as well as Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. The summer semester will see approximately 20 students graduate. Many will return to their home states of California, Illinois, and Pennsylvania to join the workforce.

The VSU NSSLHA chapter finished the year with a bang. They volunteered and provided services to many community organizations. They collected and distributed school supplies to local schools, volunteered time to local nursing facilities, and many other organizations.

## **Faculty Spotlight**

Drs. Jade Coston, Corine Myers-Jennings, and Ruth Stonestreet have a Quality Enhancement Project (QEP) to work with undergraduate students who will conduct research on toddlers using the LENA system. Check out the current issue of the Advance for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Lila Carson, Susan Miller, and Karen Noll's article on Production of /r/ sport the cover story in the June 27, 2011 volume 21(11) issue. Ruth Renee Hannibal, Ph.D., CCC-SLP was featured in the cover story Dehydration and Dysphagia in the February 21, 2011 volume 21(4) issue of Advance for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Dr. Hannibal is also on ASHA's Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Council. She and many other council members met at the ASHA national office in March to discuss issues pertinent to speech-language pathology and audiology. Be sure to read those emails from Lemietta McNeely when they come to your inbox. If any member of GSHA has concerns, please contact her at rrhannib@valdosta.edu. Ruth Stonestreet has been appointed to the Financial Planning Board for the ASHA. She and other board members met in June at ASHA's national office to discuss financial planning for ASHA. They will meet again in September to plan the budget for the year 2012.

*Collaborative from page 8*

- advocacy and leadership of ASHA members in administrative and policy decisions that influence Medicare coverage, reimbursement, and delivery of speech-language pathology services and audiology services;
- national position papers, guidelines, and definitions for state associations to use in developing state-specific standards of care, quality assurance programs, and state policies;
- information and technical assistance from ASHA continuing education staff on programming, marketing, and evaluating state association-sponsored continuing education opportunities;
- data (employment information, caseload characteristics, salaries, etc.) from the following four ASHA Omnibus-replacement surveys
  - school-based speech-language pathologists;
  - audiologists;
  - health-care based speech-language pathologists; and
  - a rotating population of individuals in private practice, academicians, researchers, etc;
- opportunities for invited presentations on translational and evidence-based practice research at several state association meetings may be made available as part of ASHA's commitment towards making the benefits of research to clinical practice more visible;
- print and audiovisual sale products to assist state associations with their career recruitment and public awareness campaigns, including:
  - a videotape on the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology;
  - consumer brochures; and
  - Better Hearing and Speech Month products and information.
- assistance with strategic planning (Contact Stan Dublinske, Senior Advisor for Planning sdublinske@asha.org)

### **State Recognition**

ASHA assures that it shares common purposes and membership requirements with state associations through a formal state association recognition process. In addition to the above programs and resources, ASHA-recognized state associations may:

- receive one free set of mailing labels of ASHA members in their state or have one e-mail blast sent to ASHA members in their state;
- receive up to five complimentary annual subscriptions to the ASHA Leader;
- use the ASHA Cap Wiz web site for grassroots letter and e-mail campaigns to state legislators and regulators and to ASHA members in a state;
- qualify for financial aid in the form of loan and grant programs, subject to availability of funds in the ASHA budget;
- receive compensation, and other benefits from ASHA, when the ASHA annual convention is held in their state;
- up to two complimentary base registration waivers for ASHA Convention for active state association lobbyists (nonASHA member eligible only)
- states may request a single waived ASHA Convention registration for use by their association as a raffle prize or auction giveaway when ASHA's Convention is hosted in their region (north, south, west, and central)
- complimentary consultation on meeting contracts for state association conferences by ASHA
- have ASHA Board of Directors members present and meet with members at state association meetings by contacting Janet Deppe (jdeppe@asha.org) or their state liaison;
- have ASHA staff present at state association conventions without need for an honorarium.



When applying for ASHA recognition renewal, state associations must provide ASHA with the following information:

- a copy of the state association's constitution or bylaws and the association's stated purpose;
- the state association's membership requirements;
- the state association's code of ethics and nondiscrimination policy;
- the state association profile, including the current names, street and e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of association leadership.



# President's Message

by Kelly Ball, M.Ed., CCC-SLP, GSHA President 2011-12

As the new president of GSHA, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me. My name is Kelly Ball, and my husband and I own a pediatric private practice in Dacula, Georgia. We have two children, Jacob (age 6) and Carson (age 5). I have been actively involved with GSHA for approximately 5 years. Initially, I served on the Healthcare committee.

I later became Healthcare Committee Chair and served on the tri-alliance with members from the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association and the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia. Over the past year, I have served as President-Elect and have enjoyed working under the guidance of Melanie Hudson. She has been a great President, and I look forward to working with her in the capacity of Past President. I have met many wonderful and dedicated people during my time with GSHA, and I look forward to meeting all of you and helping you to find a way to get involved with GSHA initiatives.

We have listened to member input, and over the next year, we will be focusing on several areas that have been identified by our membership. One of our biggest projects will be to update and change the website. We want our website to be easy for members to navigate and a good place to find important information quickly. You will be receiving a member survey soon, and we ask that you take the time to share any ideas that you feel will help improve the website and GSHA in general.



We will also be developing a better way to distribute information to members. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that is happening with our lobbyists and committees that does not always get relayed to our members. Our hope is to use our new website and the listserv to keep members current on GSHA activities and events.

In addition, I will be hosting a new event called "Night out with GSHA" in different parts of the state. Come out for a social night of hanging out, having fun, and talking about life. Reconnect with old acquaintances, meet other professionals in your area, and find out what is happening in your area of practice across the state. We are a great group of people and can always use a break from our busy lives, so why not go out for a night of fun with other GSHA members?

Finally, in order to make GSHA effective and beneficial for all our members, we need your help. I urge you to consider becoming a committee member this year. You can volunteer as little or as much time as you have available. There are projects of all sizes. You will find that you truly get back more than you give. I look forward to working with all of you over the next year. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve.



## Join the GSHA Member Listserv

The member listserv is accessible by members of the association. If you are a member, please first review GSHA's Listserv Policy. Then, follow the instructions below to join the list.

To subscribe to the Member Listserv, please follow these steps:

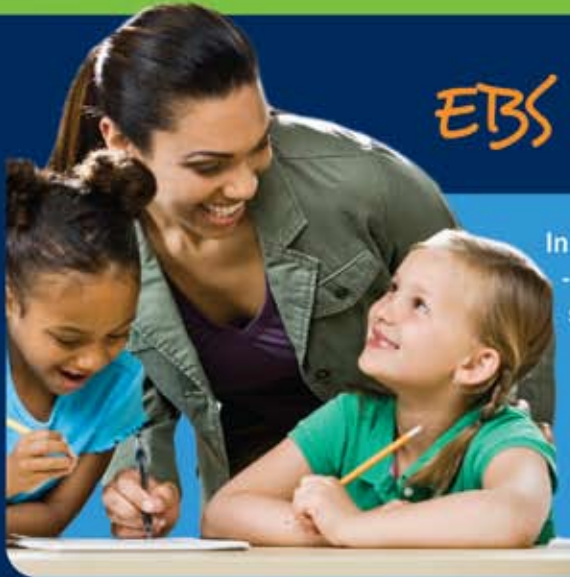
1. Go to [www.gsha.org](http://www.gsha.org), and click on Member Login
2. After you log in, click on "My Profile"
3. In your profile, select the tab "My E-Lists"
4. Next to the GSHA Member Listserv, select "Subscribe"
5. Check the e-mail box and make sure that your correct e-mail is entered.
6. To start sending to the list, open your e-mail system (ex., Outlook) and type [gsha-mbr@aso.memberclicks.net](mailto:gsha-mbr@aso.memberclicks.net) in the "To" field of your e-mail. Make sure that you send your e-mail from the same address listed in your listserv subscription.





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