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**Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association**  
20423 State Road 7, Suite F6-491  
Boca Raton, FL 33498  
1-800-226-GSHA (phone)  
561-477-8109 (fax)  
execdir@gsha.org  
www.gsha.org



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## A Message from the GSHA President



*Ruth Stonestreet, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
GSHA President, 2008-2009*

What does GSHA do for me? Why should I be a part of a state organization? These questions are ones that have been asked. At the convention, a presentation was made at the luncheon to address these questions and to remind the membership of the past, present and future endeavors. Below is a synopsis of

that presentation by Erica Chatelain, GSHA President-Elect.

In the past, GSHA has worked to create a voice for you in the professions. A Trialliance, consisting of occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech-language pathologists, was formed to build a stronger united voice in the professions. Currently, the Healthcare Chair on the Executive Council represents GSHA on the Trialliance and frequently reports to the Council on issues that of importance. GSHA was the force behind the Sunset Law, a law that protects state licensure for speech-language pathologists and audiologists. When Medicaid rates were in questions, GSHA was instrumental in getting a rate increase. The prevention of a 10% reimbursement rate cut for hospitals and a 6% reimbursement rate cut for all other healthcare practices was accomplished. Several items were on the agenda for 2008-2009, but with budget cuts, some of the planned initiatives, return to work for educators, the proposal to allow Clinical Fellows to become Medicaid providers and the stipends for school speech-language

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## 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, 2009.**

*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).*

*President from page 1*

pathologists who have national teacher certification, have not come to fruition. Two successes this year have been the saving of a salary supplement for school speech-language pathologists and the saving of proposed Medicaid cuts.

Executive Council has had a full complement of members who have volunteered time and talent. They have worked together as a team, discussing issues and coming to consensus on challenges. A new governance structure, proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee passes, and the committee is now working on constitutional revisions. These will be presented to membership next year. Budgetary constraints have been an issue, bringing us to face a dues increase and prepare a budget with little resources for committees. A decrease in membership and numbers attending convention and continuing education has had an impact.

What can I do as a member? Take an active in this association, even if it is as a volunteer for a committee, a moderator at the convention, a participant in continuing education or as a support to assist in building membership. Talk to your colleagues and remind them to renew membership or join the association. Remind students about membership. They are the future of GSHA. Talk about the benefits of your state organization. GSHA is the ONLY state association recognized by ASHA.

GSHA offers you the opportunity to obtain continuing education through the convention and other GSHA sponsored seminars or workshops. The latest news in the state and nation are reported in the monthly E-news and the Communication Lines, which is published four times a year. There are online communities or forums on the GSHA website and an online membership directory. Take advantage of these opportunities and benefits of GSHA, and don't forget to tell others. Be proud of your association!

July 1 is the start of the new fiscal year. At that time, Erica Chatelain will become the President for 2009-2010. New committee members, new committee chairs and new officers will lead throughout the next year. Please support them, feel free to ask questions or give comments and feedback.

Thank you for your support and confidence in my leadership this past year. I have been proud to serve the membership of GSHA.

# Special Education Law Update

Melanie Hudson

On December 1, 2008, the US Department of Education issued final IDEA regulations allowing parents to unilaterally revoke consent for special education services at any time. The regulations, which went into effect on December 31, 2008, will have the effect of returning a child to general education as a nondisabled student if the parents refuse consent. School districts may not use mediation or due process hearings to attempt to continue services when a parent revokes consent for continuing special education.

According to the regulations, a parent must put the revocation of consent in writing. The district must then give prior notice of termination of services based on parent revocation of consent. These written communications provide documentation of the process. A public agency may not discontinue services until after giving prior written notice to the parent. Prior written notice must be given "a reasonable time" before the discontinuation of services. A state may establish additional voluntary procedures but may not establish rules that would delay or deny discontinuation of services at parent request.

The district is not required to conduct an evaluation before discontinuing services under these circumstances. The prior written notice may state that the district is discontinuing the provision of special education and related services because the parent revoked consent for special education.

The district is not obligated to remove the special education paperwork from before the parent's revocation of consent. The revocation is not retroactive and does not erase what has already happened.

If a parent requests resumption of special education services after revoking consent, he/she may request an evaluation to determine if the student is eligible at that time for special education and related services. This would be considered an initial evaluation. The team must consider existing information in determining what assessment is needed for eligibility and identifying special education and related services.

A district is not liable for FAPE when terminating special education services

following parent revocation of consent. Districts should be very careful about following the required procedures.

Of special note to SLPs, a parent may not revoke consent to some services and not others. The revocation rule applies to revocation for all special education and related services. Disagreement with provision of a particular service would still go through the IEP process; mediation and due process hearing options are available to resolve disputes regarding particular services.

After the revocation goes into effect:

- The student is treated the same as any other nondisabled student, along with access to accommodations, if any, that are available to nondisabled students.
- The student's IEP is no longer in effect. The district is not required to provide FAPE, conduct a three year reevaluation or hold annual IEP meetings.
- "Child find" applies to the student the same way as to any other student, including students whose parents refused consent for initial provision of special education services.
- Regular discipline rules apply. Unless intervening facts show otherwise, districts would not be considered to "have knowledge" of the student's disability and are not required to determine whether the conduct is a manifestation of the student's disability before implementing regular discipline.



# SLP/Education Committee Reports

Jill Shedd

Well, school is out for summer! While that may mean many of our working SLPs are not on their campuses, we have plenty to keep us busy over the next several weeks.

Some of the issues that have been persistent throughout the 2008-09 school year have affected us significantly, either emotionally or financially. The Department of Education has hired a replacement for Charlotte Green's position, continuing some of the good work she began with the Response to Intervention influence in the general education settings. Susan Eckhart can be reached at [seckhart@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:seckhart@doe.k12.ga.us) to help find answers or general guidance along the journey into that realm. The RtI efforts remain a big part of service delivery alternatives in prevention and identification of communication disorders in our schools.

Along those lines, know that the new year will bring new service delivery options for students through the use of co-teaching, or collaborating with regular education professionals wherever they are. The old FTE count will continue, but be looking for better ways of documenting the amount of time you spend with students. It would be helpful to hear from you as your system evolves, so keep me posted at [jshedd@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:jshedd@henry.k12.ga.us) or [jgshedd@yahoo.com](mailto:jgshedd@yahoo.com).

One interesting concern that came up this spring was that of continuing education in pursuit of a higher degree. Some of our members have questioned the opportunities available to obtain a Specialist Degree. It seems some of the schools in Georgia are not accepting the Speech Pathologist Master's Degree as enough prerequisite training in order to satisfy the requirements for going for that next degree. How, then is one supposed to ever pursue administrative positions? While that is asked rhetorically, if you have any experience with that, contact

*See Schools on page 5*

# The Clinical Exchange

by Cathy Carney Thomas, M.A., CCC-SLP

Since our last issue a lot has happened within the profession of Speech-Language Pathology. We have had our state convention in Atlanta. There is a great deal of work that goes into a yearly convention so let's give a big appreciation for all who were involved. We had many good speakers and topics and discussions and poster sessions – well, let's just say it was impossible not to walk away with something learned that will make us better clinicians, teachers and mentors. We also need to be advocates for the profession and the things that we do everyday to make someone's life just a little better.

to policy making. We, as a profession of speech language pathologists need to let everyone know the efficacy of these treatments, we need to continue the research and the Evidence Based practice theory that leads us to appropriate clinical outcomes. Let's all get involved here. Okay, enough of the politics involved let's move on to what we know and wish to share.

We had discovered that there are no studies out there to date to show the efficacy of Vital stimulation on children. Several of you wrote stating that you wouldn't do it on children. It is difficult to try something without the

with the use of the electrical stimulation of muscle groups. Research has shown that adult cricopharyngeal dysfunction improved with a combination of vital stimulation and dilation. As overall tone, muscle and coordination improve so should the swallow. I did not read any or receive any information on the dosing – how many, how much or how long. Looks like a good path for future research.

Adults with progressive disease show exercise with the e-stim helps minimize decreasing function as the patient's disease progresses. Occupational therapy research touts the use of vibration therapy to the face and cheeks to increase tone.

The overwhelming consensus is that nothing improves the swallow like the swallow. To quote from the March 30, 2009 Advance magazine regarding swallowing therapy, "Currently speech language pathologists typically employ a shotgun approach to treatment with patients with dysphagia. They have the patient do every exercise they think will help." (Butler, et. al. 2009).

I thought I'd add my little piece of information to the puzzle and say that I am learning to research things before I have an opinion. The National Institute of Health provides several web pages to help even the novice look for information. Check the web at [www.nlm.nih.gov/databases](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases) for a complete list of electronic resources.

Well, the question sent in for the next issue of our newsletter has to do with Dementia. Specifically, "What is the Speech Language Pathologists role regarding assessment of dementia using the Allen Cognitive Scale?" Claudia Allen, the author is an occupational therapist an the scales were originally intended for the mental health population.

Any of you who can help out with this curiosity should e-mail your responses to me at [cathycarney2@aol.com](mailto:cathycarney2@aol.com). We want to hear from you. You may also forward any questions you would like to see answered in future issues of the paper.

Happy Spring - Hope to hear from you with any clinical question or concern  
***What's on your mind today?***

Our question this issue for the clinical exchange seems a bit serendipitous, just as we look closer into the efficacy of Vital Stimulation within our profession, several states (Georgia being one) has stopped payment of ANY e-stim related therapy.

I immediately hit the roundtable discussion about Dysphagia to find out who had heard the news and what we were going to do about it. Comes as a surprise to many who are performing Vital Stimulation, we always knew that it had to be done in conjunction with another dysphagia therapy it cannot stand alone. Now, some intermediaries have stopped payment irregardless of other conventional therapy being provided. It is scary, the insurance providers tend to all jump on the same boat when it comes

research to back it up. The purpose of vital stimulation is re-training of muscles not training it to begin with. Therefore, children who have never had a swallow as a skill (or swallowed safely) do not see remarkable gains from e-stim.

Adult stroke victims are demonstrating good success again because they are retraining a previously trained muscle. People with peripheral sensory and/or motor impairments are not candidates for the use of vital stimulation. Evidence as to whether e-stim is beneficial to children is not yet conclusive. Overall studies have been inconsistent with questionable validity.

Mary Freed inventor of the Vital Stimulation device for Speech Pathologists recommends dilation therapy concurrent



# ASHA Speech-Language Advisory Council Meeting

Melanie Hudson, Advisory Council Member

The Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Council met March 19-22 to gain valuable knowledge and experience through visits to Capitol Hill, to explore fully its leadership role within ASHA, and to exercise that role through offering its advice on important issues to ASHA's Board of Directors.

Melanie Hudson, Al DeChichis and Colleen O'Rourke met with the staffs of Georgia Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isaacson. Melanie also met with Representative Tom Price. From these meetings, they were able to gain a broad awareness of ASHA's influence on Capitol Hill-how that influence works and how it can be exercised. Through briefings and on-the-Hill experience, they learned, along with other AC members, the rudiments of effective advocacy.

In round-table focus group discussions, the AC explored its roles through consideration of five questions:

1. In what ways may the AC exercise significant influence within ASHA?
2. How does an effective advisory council balance two important functions: that of offering its evolving vision to the organization and that of responding to needs for sustained consideration of issues of the moment?
3. Why are AC members contributors to a process leading to a range of possible options and perspectives rather than geographical or special interests representatives? In what ways do effective Council members affirm that special role?
4. How might the AC most effectively organize its work to ensure sustained vitality across the year?
5. What forms of communication-inputs and outputs-are necessary for effectiveness and efficiency?

Robert Augustine, ASHA VP for Finance briefed the Council on the ASHA budget. He also posed questions to gain a sense of the Council on how ASHA members could be helped with job loss and related economic concerns. Discussion centered on how ASHA can provide easy access to programs and services related to these issues.

The Council also provided input as to new products and services that could become a significant and sustainable source of new non-dues revenue. These included renting/leasing physical and technology space, new products and services, and new and enhanced conferences and meetings.

Lemmietta McNeilly, Chief Staff Officer for Speech-Language Pathology provided the AC with a brief presentation on "Key Issues Facing the Profession of Speech-Language Pathology." Through group discussions, recommendations were made as to how ASHA might more fully support our commitment to continued professional development, supporting success and contributing effectively to improvements in the professional work environment.

Any ASHA member may contact a member of the ASHA Board of Directors to gain information, express concerns or to share information. Under the new governance structure, your Advisory Council Members serve as a voice, but not necessarily as your representative voice to the Board of Directors. Please share your voice with ASHA!

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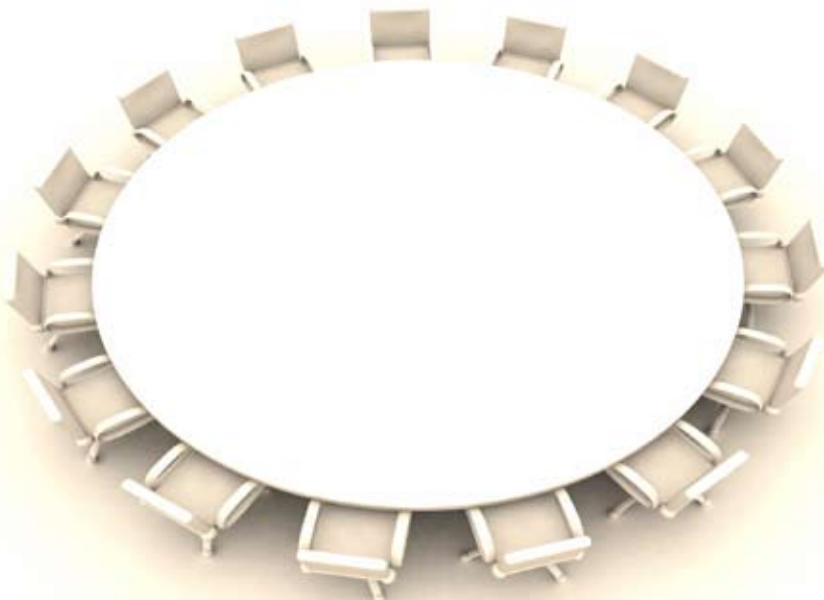
us and we would love to post the information to the GSHA bulletin board for others to learn from your experience. Thanks in advance for any ideas on the topic.

The last issue to mention is that of eligibility consistency from system to system. Because there is so much variance from state to state, county to county, school to school, even, should the state DOE attempt building some sort of basis for determining eligibility? Could there be a better, more consistent or objective manner of interpreting scores to provide a standard operating procedure? Those are some of the questions that have come across the emails and phone lines throughout the season of IEPs that now have us thinking about ways to work together.

You can be a part of our working team by sending in your membership dues and survey responses as they come to you. We always need representation at all levels of support. Your duty as a professional is to advocate for yourself and your profession, and this organization is just one way of ensuring that. Contact the GSHA offices to see how you can add your ideas.

## What are the benefits of membership in GSHA?

- GSHA is the ONLY State organization recognized by ASHA
- GSHA is a cohesive voice for your profession
- GSHA provides networking opportunities, both professional and personal.
- GSHA offers discounted continuing education opportunities and applies for ASHA CEUs on your behalf as an approved ASHA CEU provider.
- GSHA hold an annual convention in which you can obtain almost all of your required CEUs.
- GSHA keeps you up-to-date with the latest news and research studies through its monthly e-news and printed newsletter, Communication Lines.
- GSHA provides opportunities for you to connect with other SLPs and AUDs in your area through Online Communities (forums).
- GSHA keeps you up-to-date with the latest job openings via its web site.
- GSHA offers its members the resources of connecting with experts in the industry.
- GSHA serves as an intermediary for members in the profession
- GSHA offers ethical oversight.



# GSHA Honors Members at the Convention

Erica Chatelain, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

Each year at GSHA's Annual convention, awards are presented to members make distinguished contributions and who are recognized for professional and/or scientific achievement to the field of speech-language pathology and audiology. GSHA asks its members to nominate colleagues who are deserving of these awards. This year at the annual convention four amazing and deserving GSHA members were presented with the following awards: Jack Bess Memorial Scholarship, Jack Bess Memorial Award, Clinician of the Year Award, and Honors of the Association.

The Jack Bess Memorial Scholarship was presented to **Olga Clark**, a student from the University of Georgia. After immigrating to the United States, Olga experienced difficulties with her speech. Knowing only German and Russian, it was not easy for Olga to learn English. She learned first-hand the hardships you endure when unable to communicate effectively, which in turn has helped her related to her patient's struggles. Olga's passion is to make as much of a difference as she can to prevent people who struggle with communication from having to feel isolated, rejected, and depressed. Her future goals are to work in a medical setting, acquire a Ph.D., and become a college professor in Communication Disorders. One professor stated the following: "Her background as an undergraduate major in Special Education and her fluent Russian skills have greatly enhanced her academic and clinical abilities. She has sought out additional clinical development opportunities beyond the graduate program by teaching children with special education needs while completing required undergraduate courses in her first year of graduate school, attending a recent voice conference at Emory University, and volunteering with clients in the clinic and local area hospitals, who speak Russian as their primary language. Her own struggles with communication disorder have made her very compassionate in dealing with individuals with communication disorders. I believe her efforts to seek out and complete additional avenues of education

are unique for a graduate student at this beginning stage of her program. "

The Jack Bess Memorial Award was presented to **Whitney Williams**. The Jack Bess Memorial Award was established in memory of Jack Bess for his many years of support of and contributions to the speech-language pathology and audiology professions and recognizes outstanding contribution to the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Whitney has served GSHA as a student representative during her years in graduate school and always demonstrated an enthusiasm for GSHA. She is always willing to accept responsibility and serve and is currently on the finance board.

Clinician of the Year was presented to **Jill Shedd**. This award recognizes outstanding professional achievement of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist whose primary employment activity is the provision of direct clinical services. Jill is currently the SEAL and Schools Committee Chairperson for GSHA and is affiliated with the following associations: ASHA, GSHA, GOSSLP, SEAL, and Henry Heritage Reading Council. Jill demonstrates outstanding dedication and service to not only to GSHA, but also to her students, her colleagues, and her community.

Honors of the Association was presented to the late **Dr. Robert Hull** of Valdosta State University. As many of you know, Dr. Hull passed away April 6, 2009 shortly after receiving this award. A nominee for Honors of the Association must have been an active participant in the profession and GSHA no less than five years. Dr. Hull met the requirements also showed outstanding performance in clinical service, academic teaching, service to GSHA, and service to local, regional, and national professional organizations. During his years at VSU, Dr. Hull served as the clinic director, the off campus placement coordinator, managed eight supervisors and 120 students in practicum, coordinated off

campus placement for academic training program of 100-200 graduate students per year, and created numerous clinical opportunities for VSU students because of his positive statewide reputation. Dr. Hull was a member of GSHA for 23 years and for 22 of those years he held every office in the association and is the only member to serve as President twice. He dedicated his career in service to state and national organizations, clinical supervision, and teaching. He did it with integrity and emphasized ethical practices to all his students. He will be missed by his students, colleagues, and friends. At GSHA, we are deeply saddened by Dr. Hull's untimely death and our thoughts and prayers are extended to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed by everyone whose lives had been touched by such a remarkable man. However, colleagues remembers him best –

"He was a seasoned professional with a history of management success. He had an untiring work ethic and a broad background of leadership. He was a true professional, and I am proud to have called him my friend and colleague."

"During the years I have known him, he has demonstrated outstanding service to the profession of communication sciences and disorders, particularly in the areas of teaching, clinical services and service to professional associations,

*Clinician of the Year recognizes outstanding professional achievement of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist whose primary employment activity is the provision of direct clinical services.*

especially GSHA and ASHA. As a result of Dr. Hull's dedication to the field, he has impacted the profession in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Georgia. "

# What's New At The "U"?

## Georgia State University

Kudos to our Communication Disorders students who have won awards this spring! Leigh Oglesby received the David Zeaman Student Travel Research Award at the NICHD sponsored Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. At the College of Education Honors Day the following students received awards: Ali Davis, Outstanding Master's Student in Special Education; Brittany Byrd, Outstanding Clinician in Communication Disorders; and Brittany Carroll, Andrea Davis, and Elizabeth Omaivboje, the Glenn A. Vergason Scholarship – we are proud of you for your accomplishments. And more congratulations go to our most recent graduates (May, 2009): Jennie Graiser and Rebecca Maxwell.

The faculty and current students spent a busy two days in February interviewing over 90 applicants to our graduate program. Obviously with that many interviews we have more qualified applicants than we will be able to accept, but we look forward to welcoming a new cohort of approximately 18 students in the fall. Our NSSLHA chapter has been hard at work this spring. They began the semester by welcoming the potential new students with refreshments and tours of the Clinic during their interviews to help with the recruitment process. They have also been updating some of our equipment in the Clinic's student work room to make a more efficient work space for the students. Planning for Supervisor Appreciation Day is well on its way and NSSLHA members are excited to show our supervisors the gratitude they deserve. NSSLHA will also participate in the 2009 Autism Walks in May. Members are

hard at work raising money to donate to Autism Speaks and the Marcus Autism Center.

Dr. Debra Schober-Peterson and Ms. Mary Rambow collaborated with Ms. Carol Ann Raymond from the University of Georgia to present on Essential tools for Supervision at the GSHA Convention in April. Ms. Rambow also was elected as secretary for the Georgia Supervisory Network. Dr. Colleen O'Rourke presented the outcomes of the Gold Standard Summit on Audiology Education with colleague Dr. Dianne Meyer at the Council of Academic Programs in CSD in April.

Our Eleventh Annual Summer Institute is set for June 18th and 19th with Dr. Kathryn Kohnert, an associate professor at the University of Minnesota, presenting on Language Disorders in Children and Adults who are Bilingual. Dr. Kohnert is nationally known for her research and teaching in the area of bilingual studies and was awarded the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Certificate for Special Contributions in Multicultural Affairs in 2006.

Watch your mail for the Institute registration materials!

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

## University of Georgia

The UGA Communication Sciences and Disorders Program is pleased to announce that we have received notification from ASHA's Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) that our master's degree program in speech-language pathology has been re-accredited for 8 years until 2016. This recognition comes after our fall two-day site visit by the CAA, which awards reaccreditation for a maximum of 8 years to CMSD programs who meet standards for accreditation and annual review of the program. Many thanks to everyone who worked so diligently to prepare for this site visit and for the ongoing excellence that you provide in your teaching and clinical education of our students, which the CAA has recognized with this designation.

Our program is experiencing some changes as Anne Bothe is ending

her role as the Department Head for Communication Sciences and Special Education. We have greatly appreciated her leadership for the last three years, and we are very fortunate that she will remain on our faculty. Congratulations to Al De Chicchis who will be our new Department Head as of July 1. Dr. DeChicchis has previously been serving as our CMSD Program Director, and we look forward to his guidance for our department!

We said good-bye in May to Casey Monnier, one of our clinical supervisors, who returned home to Maine after three years with us at UGA. We will miss Casey and wish her the best in the future.

We are also sad to say good-bye to our 19 graduate students who finished their final semester in medical and school internships and will graduate August 1. We wish you all the best in your new careers! Many thanks again to all of the off-campus supervisors who provided clinical education opportunities for this class to make their final semester so successful.

Faculty have been busy with publications and presentations, including:

- Suneti Nathani Iyer and Anne Bothe: Shoaf, K. O., Iyer, S. N., & Bothe, A. K. (2009). Using single-subject experimental design to implement a nonlinear phonology approach to target selection. *Contemporary Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders, 36*, 77-88.
- Rebecca Shisler Marshall: Orenstein, E. & Marshall, R.J.S. (2009, May). Effects of Mindfulness Meditation on Three Individuals with Aphasia. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Keystone, CO. ; and
- Laures-Gore, J.S., Marshall, R.J.S. & Verner, E. (2009, February). Forward and Backward Digit Span in Aphasia. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Atlanta, GA.
- Carol Ann Raymond: Raymond, C., Rambow, M., & Schober-Peterson, D. (2009, April). Essential elements

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for effective supervision: Tools to enhance the supervisory process. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Atlanta, GA.

Congratulations to our graduate student, Olga Clark, who was awarded the Jack Bess Scholarship at the GSHA convention luncheon. Her accomplishments have been outstanding, and we look forward to her continued involvement in GSHA and our profession in the future!

To celebrate a century of teaching, service, and research, The Communication Sciences and Special Education Department collaborated with Project SCEIs Research Institute and Higher Education Consortium to present The 2009 CSSE Summer Institute: Connecting Research and Practice for Early Interventionists, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Special Educators. Close to 200 participants enjoyed speakers from various disciplines at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, June 8 -9. We want to thank the College of Education for their support of this conference,

which was in recognition of our COE Centennial 1908-2008. Many thanks also go to our SLP featured speakers, who both presented excellent information for two sessions. Karen Guerra presented *Bilingual Language Acquisition and Language Stimulation for Preschool and School-age Children* and Kathy Newbern shared the latest research and resources for *Learning to Listen with Cochlear Implants*.

Our program is currently searching for a full-time clinical supervisor with an expertise in adult neurogenic disorders. For more information about the position, contact Carol Ann Raymond at 706-542-4559 or raymond1@uga.edu. . You will also find the job announcement information at [www.coe.uga.edu/csse](http://www.coe.uga.edu/csse).



Wayne W. Neck, MA, CCC-SLP, owner of Global Rehabilitation Services, was presented the 2009 Philip Wright Award, a Pioneer RESA award honoring advocates of students with disabilities. This is the first time a school system has recognized a contract position as recipient for this award. Mr. Neck was presented the award by Mary Wildes, Director of Special Programs, Banks County Schools, April 20, 2009.

## Call for Articles

*Communication Lines* is a newsletter published three 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:

Jody B. Rosen, APR  
Executive Director  
20423 State Road 7  
Suite F6-491  
Boca Raton, FL 33498  
Office: 1-800-226-4742  
E-mail: [execdir@gscha.org](mailto:execdir@gscha.org)

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1/2 Page Horizontal (7.5" x 4.75")	\$220 per issue
1/4 Page Square	\$110 per issue



# Member Spotlight

My name is Emily Leak and I graduated from Georgia State University with a Masters degree in Communication Disorders. I completed my undergraduate studies at Auburn University. I was very fortunate to attend Georgia State in the early stages of its program because I was able to customize the program to meet my needs. My favorite memories of school were being Co-Vice President of NSSHLA with Paul Sayers and our whole Dysphagia class having dinner together after class one late night. I also remember rewriting many evaluations and therapy reports. I kept all of those reports. That notebook is now infamous and was handed down (with names blacked out to protect the innocent) to help other students learn from my mistakes.

I currently work in Carrollton, Georgia where I am co-owner of a speech practice called Communication Partners, Inc. Our facility serves the West Georgia area and has recently contracted with Tanner Health Systems to provide speech therapy services. In addition to providing services to this area, I work with Babies Can't Wait, District 4 and work with the birth the 3 population. I don't have a particular area that I like more than others ... I like it all!

Kathy Gunter and Lynne Long are the two people who influenced me the most to go into the field of speech pathology. I met these people at Tanner Medical Center where I was employed at the time. Later, after I finished graduate school I completed by CFY at Tanner under Lynne Long. Since that time I have worked in various settings and loved them all. That is why I am in business for myself, so that I can work in all settings and have variety in my professional life.

My current passion is helping schools, state agencies, and families become more knowledgeable about the importance of speech-language therapy. I recall working in a school system and I was discounted by a teacher because I was only a "speech therapist." I also recall a school administrator who could not see the value of speech therapy and language development. It saddens me to see a state-wide health insurance provider deny coverage for children because they also

receive speech services in their schools. It is disturbing to hear parents say that their pediatrician told them to wait because their child would speak when ready. Unfortunately, that child missed valuable time and intervention.

In my personal life, I am married to David and we have 4 wonderful children: Logan (12), Jonathan and Nathan (twins -8), and Kathryn (3). We enjoy playing games together and being outside. As you can tell, I love being a speech-language pathologist!



Emily Leak

## News Briefs

### Medicare Part B Therapy Cap

We would like to provide this "friendly reminder" to contact your Senators and Representatives in support of the bipartisan legislation to repeal the Medicare Part B Therapy Caps. If passed, the Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services, which is House of Representative bill 43 and Senate bill 46, would repeal the present \$1,840 annual limit for PT/SLP combined and OT services. Please don't wait; we need to express our concerns to congressional members about limiting our patients much needed therapy services. Ask them to vote in favor of H.R.43/S.46.

### Hand Sanitizer Alert

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has advised health care providers not to use Clarcon Hand Sanitizers. The FDA's recent analyses of Clarcon products revealed high levels of various bacteria. Some of these bacteria discovered in the products can cause infections of the skin and underlying tissues. Specific products named at this time were: Citrusshield Lotion, Dermasentials, DermaBarrier, Dermasentials of Clarcon Antimicrobial Hand Sanitizer, Iron Fist Barrier Hand Treatment, Skin Shield Industrial and Total Skin Care Work. We urge SLPs working in skilled nursing facilities and/or hospitals to be particularly aware of these products and the potential for bacterial skin infections if utilized.

### CMS Proposes Severe Cuts to Skilled Nursing Care

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed cuts of \$1.05 billion up to \$18 billion in Fiscal Year 2010. These financial cuts to Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) will be devastating and will negatively impact provision of nursing and skilled therapy services. We urge all GSHA members to contact their members of congress and request they oppose CMS's present proposal contained in the May 12th Proposed SNF Rule to cut funds for skilled nursing care.

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## News from ASHA

by Emily Wooten, M.A., CCC-SLP

Elections for the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association's (ASHA) Board of Directors opened June 1, 2009 and close at noon (EDT) on June 26, 2009. Candidates for each position are as follows: President-Elect (2010) – Dennis L. Burrows, CCC-A, Paul R. Rao, CCC-SLP, and Brian B. Shulman, CCC-SLP; Vice President for Audiology Practice (2010-2012) – Al De Chicchis, CCC-A, Jaynee A Handelsman, CCC-A, and Kaye Williams Hill, CCC-A; Vice President for Academic Affairs in Speech-Language Pathology (2010-2012) – Rosalind (Ro) Scudder, CCC-SLP, Earl (Gip) Seaver, CCC-SLP, and M. Jeanne Wilcox, CCC-SLP; and Vice President for Science and Research (2010-2012) – Robert F. Burkard, CCC-A, Karen I. Kirk, CCC-SLP, and William A. Yost. All candidates' answers to questions posed by ASHA's Committee on Nominations and Elections are available on the following website: [www.asha.org/links/elections](http://www.asha.org/links/elections).

ASHA members now have free, unlimited online access to over 60 years of archives of the following journals: *American Journal of Audiology*; *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*; *Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*; *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*; *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*; and *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*. These archives comprise 675 issues in 169 volumes of the journals listed above.

ASHA is currently seeking nominations for "diversity champions," as part of their celebration of 40 years of diversity. A "diversity champion" may be described as "those members who have made significant contributions to the professions and ASHA through their demonstrated respect and value for differing backgrounds and points of view and through their achievements in addressing the impact of culture and/or language on speech-language pathology, audiology, or speech-language or hearing science" (The ASHA Leader, Volume 14, Number 7). Nominations may be accepted from any ASHA or National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) member. Self-nominations are also acceptable. All ASHA and NSSLHA members are eligible to be "champions." The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2009. "Diversity champions" will be recognized at the 2009 ASHA convention in New Orleans.

## GSHA Healthcare Committee Report

by Kelly Ball, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

Since our last issue of Communication Lines the Trialliance met with Medicaid and each of the CMO's regarding compliance with Senate Bill 507. Concerns were individually discussed with each CMO and some positive changes have been noted including Amerigroup approving more than 26 visits in a six month period, therapy visits being approved without standardized testing on difficult to test children, and Peachstate making changes within their provider enrollment department to streamline their enrollment process. Concerns persist regarding the overall time it takes for a new provider to complete the Medicaid/CMO enrollment process. The Trialliance will work with our lobbyist to continue to pursue this problem. The Trialliance also met with Peachstate and TRS to discuss the transition to TRS. Concerns were raised regarding TRS's understanding and compliance with Senate Bill 507. TRS indicated that they were unaware of the Georgia regulations within this bill but would become knowledgeable about it. As providers transition to TRS, noncompliance with Senate Bill 507 should be reported to [kellyball@tsg-inc.net](mailto:kellyball@tsg-inc.net).

No new information has been received about the Babies Can't Wait program. Districts are moving toward a primary provider model and teams have been formed in many areas. Contact your local Babies Can't Wait office to inquire about SLP team positions.

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