

## Inside ...

Convention Corner, 2

*Carapace* Performed at  
Alliance Theater, 3

Clinical Exchange, 3

What's New at the U? 6

News from ASHA, 10

Quick Tips for Communicating  
with Persons with Alzheimer's  
Dementia and Other Related  
Disorders, 11

Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association  
20423 State Road 7, Suite F6-491  
Boca Raton, FL 33498  
561-477-8100 (phone)  
561-910-0896 (fax)  
execdir@gsha.org  
www.gsha.org



*Teamwork,  
Advocacy, & Professional  
Collaboration*  
2011 GSHA Convention  
February 11-12  
Classic Center - Athens, GA

## From the President



Happy New Year,  
GSHA Members!  
This year promises  
to be an exciting, if  
not challenging one  
for our professions,  
no matter what your  
setting.

There are probably  
very few among us who have not  
felt the effects of the changes in the  
economy. Have these changes affected  
your ability to successfully meet the  
needs of the individuals whom you  
serve? Have you had to cut back on  
materials, hiring, or your professional  
development, in order to provide even  
basic clinical services and programs?

As your state's professional  
association, GSHA is your family with  
whom you can share your concerns  
during these challenging times. Our  
upcoming convention will offer plenty  
of informal networking opportunities,  
as well as round table sessions  
and forums where you will have  
an opportunity to discuss relevant  
topics with your fellow professionals.  
In addition, as GSHA President, I  
am continuing to host coffee shop  
visits around the state to listen to  
your concerns and discuss relevant  
issues in an informal setting. Since  
September, I have had the pleasure  
of visiting with members and fellow  
professionals in Valdosta, Woodstock,  
Alpharetta, Savannah and Macon.

Watch the listserv and *E-News* for  
future times and locations. Our  
Lobbyists are working aggressively  
to monitor legislative issues that  
affect our ability to provide quality  
services and programs, and they  
need our input as they provide this  
valuable support on our behalf.  
We are enjoying our activity on  
Facebook, Linked-In and on our  
member listserv. Please use these  
effective networking tools to  
communicate with your fellow  
GSHA members about hot topics,  
specific concerns, or even just to  
get an opinion on a clinical issue.  
We recently had activity on the  
new Medicaid billing system, and  
technology in the schools, in case  
you missed them on our listserv, so  
don't forget to sign on!

Our annual convention will be  
February 11-12 at the Classic  
Center in Athens, and it is still not  
too late to register! Don't forget  
that your Georgia licensure will  
expire on March 31, so you have  
a golden opportunity to get your  
continuing education completed for  
renewal just in time! Please read  
more about the convention in this  
issue and on the GSHA Web site.

See you in Athens!

*Melanie W. Hudson, President*

# Convention Corner

2011 Convention  
February 11 - 12  
Classic Center  
Athens, GA



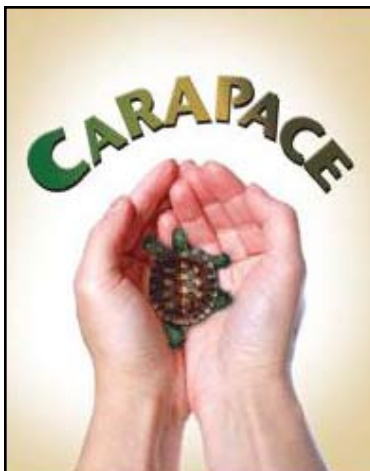
## You Can Still Register

Join your colleagues February 11 and 12 at the 2011 GSHA Convention. Some of the of the biggest names in Speech-Language-Pathology and Audiology will be in Athens to present on topics ranging from Dysphagia to Autism to AAC and more! Here's your chance to learn from **Dr. Michael Crary, Dr. Raul Rojas, Dr. Richard Zraick, Dr. Mareile Koenig,** and more!

The convention offers courses for practitioners who work with all ages and in all professional settings. So whether you work in a school setting or with nursing home geriatrics, there is something for you! You can earn up to 1.4 CEUs in this licensure year. Go to [www.gsha.org](http://www.gsha.org) to register online or download a printable form.

## Carapace Performed at the Alliance Theater

*Story of a Young Woman Who Has Battled a Severe Stutter*



The Alliance Theater in Atlanta will be performing **Carapace** at the Woodruff Arts Center. *Carapace* is a story of a young woman, Margo, who has battled a severe stutter since childhood. Professional actress, Bethany Lind, is playing Margo. Her father in the play, the character Jeff, is an alcoholic and he can be very difficult to talk to. Margo had speech therapy as a child but still suffers from bouts of marked stuttering.

GSHA member, **Tim Mackesey**, CCC-SLP, BRSFD, is actress Bethany Lind's stuttering coach. Tim, an ASHA Board Recognized Specialist in Fluency Disorders, is helping Bethany portray Margo's stutter as authentic and compelling. Bethany is going to portray blocking, repeating, and eye

contact aversion to display her struggle and affect connected to her stuttering.

This is the world premiere of *Carapace*. David Mitchell Robinson developed this play directed by seasoned Hollywood actress Judith Ivey. *Carapace* will run from February 11 to March 6, 2011. Tickets are available at [www.alliancetheater.org](http://www.alliancetheater.org)



Bethany Lind and Tim Mackesey practicing for *Carapace*

# The Clinical Exchange

## 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 June 17, 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).*

## Telepractice: You Can Teach an Old Dog New Tricks

Interview with GSHA Member -- Lee Tanenbaum, MA, MPH, CCC-SLP

*By Cathy Carney Thomas M.A. CCC-SLP*

Telehealth or telemedicine has become more common in the last few decades, despite the fact that specific scientific evidence has been sparse. Since ASHA's publication "Tel-communicology: Health care delivery systems for persons with communicative disorders," (Vaughn, G.R., 1976) speech-language pathologists have been interested in expanding their knowledge about the use of telehealth and how it may benefit our patients. Research and educational sources have pointed to several successful areas of the use of telehealth for speech and hearing sciences.

Telehealth can be expected to have a significant social and economic implication for patients, families, healthcare providers and others involved in service provisions. Specific telehealth applications have been shown to offer significant socio-economic benefits to the healthcare system as well. The main benefits included the following: increased access to health services, cost effectiveness, enhanced educational opportunities, improved health outcomes, better quality care, better quality of life, and enhanced social support.

In an effort to learn more about

the  
use  
of



telehealth in speech services in Georgia, we conducted an interview with Lee, one of our GSHA members and an advocate for and worker in telehealth.

**Cathy:** Lee, please tell us a little about yourself.

**Lee:** I've had a fun and varied career. I began in 1973 as a school speech-language pathologist for the Fort Thomas Kentucky, Schools- before the days of IDEA. I worked in California and Hawaii in schools, clinics, and Head Start performing diagnostic and therapeutic services for children 4 months to 18 years of age with speech and language disorders. Along the way, I earned a Master of Public Health degree in maternal and child health. I moved to Georgia in 1986 with my three children who are now grown. I became a GSHA member in 1986. I worked for the Georgia Division of Public Health for nearly 20 years. Initially, I trained and certified public health

*See Exchange on page 4*

*Exchange from page 3*

nurses, school personnel and volunteers in hearing and vision screening standards, policies and procedures. I was then involved with the development of Children 1st; Georgia's tracking system for high priority children. At one point, I was Coordinator of the Georgia Sudden Infant Death Information and Counseling Program. I also was Acting Coordinator for Georgia's Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Program in its early days and coordinated the implementation of UNHSI in Georgia through development of guidelines and processes to fund newborn screening equipment for all Georgia birthing hospitals. While working for Public Health, I also worked 10 years as a part time SLP for Greater Atlanta Speech and Language Clinics. For the 2006 to 2009 school years, I worked as a school SLP for Gwinnett, Forsyth and Fulton Counties. I retired in August 2009.

**Cathy:** So how did you get into telepractice?

**Lee:** I was on Facebook one day and saw an advertisement for virtual SLPs. As I was looking for some part-time work, I followed up. I am now working part time as a telepractice SLP providing speech and language therapy to students enrolled in the Oklahoma Virtual Academy through Presence TeleCare, a San Francisco-based company. I am so excited about the results I have seen from telepractice over the last six months. Telepractice started for shortages but it has

become much more. It is a way to integrate technology into special education. It is a way to engage students and teach in a way that they learn.

**Cathy:** Lee, what is telepractice?

**Lee:** ASHA defines telepractice as "the application of telecommunications technology to delivery of professional services at a distance by linking clinician to client, or clinician to clinician, for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation." Online speech therapy, or "telepractice", is a live interaction between students and a SLP using web-based video conferencing technology. The Presence TeleCare web platform includes a broad array of interactive stories, games and activities.

**Cathy:** Lee, is telepractice evidence-based?

**Lee:** Telepractice is based on a foundation of 20 years of research. There have been 29 peer-reviewed studies on SLP online speech therapy, including research by the Mayo Clinic and the National Rehabilitation Hospital. Across the board, these studies show that online speech therapy produces outcomes that are equivalent or better than traditional face-to-face therapy. Students find teletherapy fun and engaging. SLPs are able to easily replicate evidence-based intervention techniques over video conference.

**Cathy:** What does ASHA say about telepractice?

Lee: ASHA issued a position

statement recognizing telepractice as an appropriate model of service delivery in 2005. Key points of the statement include:

- ASHA's position is that "telepractice is an appropriate model of service delivery for the professions of speech-language pathology [and audiology]. Telepractice may be used to overcome barriers of access to services caused by distance, unavailability of specialists and/or subspecialists, and impaired mobility."
- Telepractice offers "the potential to extend clinical services to remote, rural, and underserved populations, and to culturally and linguistically diverse populations."
- "The use of telepractice does not remove any existing responsibilities in delivering services, including adherence to the Code of Ethics, Scope of Practice, state and federal laws (e.g., licensure, HIPAA, etc.), and ASHA policy documents on professional practices."
- Therefore, "the quality of services delivered via telepractice must be consistent with the quality of services delivered face-to-face."

**Cathy:** What have you most enjoyed about providing speech language services through telepractice?

**Lee:** The children I am working with through the Oklahoma Virtual Academy are home schooled. I have most enjoyed

*See Exchange on page 5*



*Exchange from page 4*

the opportunity to work individually with these students for twice-weekly sessions. I often speak to the parents at the end of the session or communicate through email, so parents are able to reinforce our activities. I really enjoy the technology that the Presence TeleCare platform provides. We have an array of speech therapy games, scenes, photos, videos, flashcards, and a whiteboard at my disposal. The platform also provides us a data tool to help us in documenting our student's success. I am very excited about the growing potential for the Presence TeleCare platform. The PTC technology staff are continuously updating the tools and materials based on SLP input. It's rewarding to be a part of building something so important.

**Cathy:** What does telepractice have to offer Georgia schools?

**Lee:** Telepractice may seem new, but it has been a successful component of district special education programs since the late 1990s. Now school districts in over 20 states are deploying telepractice as a way to enhance their SLP services. I believe that telepractice can provide Georgia school districts with an additional strategy to address SLP shortages, to supplement services currently provided by SLPs with large caseloads, to fill maternity leaves, to provide Response to Intervention (RTI) services, and to provide appropriate services to bilingual students.

**Cathy:** Where can our viewers

get more information on telepractice?

**Lee:** More information is available on the ASHA web site at <http://www.asha.org/telepractice>.

**Cathy:** Thanks Lee for sharing information about telepractice with GSHA's members. Good luck to you in your telepractice. Please feel free to address any questions, comments or suggestions for future articles to [cathycarney2@aol.com](mailto:cathycarney2@aol.com). See you soon and at the Convention in February!

Vaughn, G.R. (1976). Tel-communicology: Health Care delivery system for persons with communicative disorders. ASHA, 18, 13-17.

Lalor, e., Brown, M., & Cranfield, E. (2000). Telemedicine: Its role in speech and language management for rural and remote patients . Australian



Check out the  
GSHA Cybertech  
Café at the 2011  
GSHA Convention

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

## 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

# What's New At The "U"?

## **Armstrong Atlantic State University**

Greetings from Armstrong's Communication Sciences and Disorders Program!

In 2010 the program began a new tradition of recognizing outstanding clinical supervisors in our external placements. The first recipients of the Star Supervisor award were Mary Jo Bush and Tiffani Bender. Mary-Jo is a speech pathologist at St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital. She has certifications in LSVT, DPNS and VitalStim. Tiffani Bender is employed as a speech therapist by Savannah/Chatham Public School system. She has an educational specialist degree with a major in brain-based teaching. Mary-Jo and Tiffani were recognized for their dedication in providing the best possible services as practitioners and for effectively teaching future practitioners how to do the same.

The program continues to have a number of exceptional part time faculty whose contributions are invaluable to the program. Two such part-time faculty members are Dr. Lynn Adams and Dr. Elizabeth Larrimore. Dr. Adams is currently employed

as an autism specialist in Effingham Count Schools. She recently published *Parenting on the Autism Spectrum: a Survival Guide*. Dr. Larrimore is the director of the Savannah Speech and Hearing Center. Dr. Larrimore is also an Armstrong alumna, and was recently selected as an Armstrong 75th Notable. Dr. Larrimore serves as the chair of the Georgia State Board of Licensure for Speech-Language Pathology.

We also want to take time to thank Dr. Stan Cooke for his leadership of the program during the last academic year. On short notice, he stepped into the role of interim director, giving up his state of semi-retirement. During his leadership, the undergraduate program curriculum was revised making it easier for students to transfer from sister institutions into the program.

Finally, as many of you know, in the spring of last year the department survived potential closure; we are now looking and working to move forward. Thank you all for your support of our program during that time of uncertainty.

## **Georgia State University**

Happy New Year to our colleagues and alums throughout the state! We want to congratulate our most recent graduates (December, 2010) and wish them all the best: Melanie Galloway, Lanie Johnson, Jamie Kersh, Cheryl Suppes Rambler, and Torrie Pirkle Souther. This spring semester started a little later than expected due to the

snow and ice Atlanta experienced during the first week of classes, but students and faculty are quickly making up for lost time.

The Georgia State NSSLHA chapter held elections for new officers in December, and they are busy planning for the semester. Activities will include social and service events and a Job Fair in April. For additional information about the job fair contact Dr. Jacqueline Laures-Gore at [spejsl@langate.gsu.edu](mailto:spejsl@langate.gsu.edu).

Spring semester is a busy time for our Clinic, and we are happy to have one of our alums, Ms. Helayne Solomon, joining us as a part-time instructor. Helayne, Ms. Michelle Bartolozzi, and Ms. Kristin Hanna will assist our full-time faculty supervisors, Ms. Mary Rambow and Dr. Stacey Wallen in providing clinical education to our graduate students.

With our graduate program application deadline in January, spring semester is the time we make those difficult admissions' decisions. The program faculty and current students will be interviewing applicants in February. We look forward to meeting these prospective students and having them learn more about our program as they tour the Clinic and meet with faculty and current students. In faculty news, Drs. Debra Schober-Peterson and Colleen O'Rourke will be presenting with a colleague (Dr. Gail Richard) *From Start to Finish: A Look at the Admission Process* at the Council of Academic Programs

*See U on page 7*

# 2010-11 Executive Council

## President

Melanie W. Hudson, M.A., CCC-SLP

## President-Elect

Kelly Ball, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

## Past President

Erica Chatelain, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

## Vice-President of Association Affairs

Carol Ann Raymond, Ed.S., CCC-SLP

## Vice President of Professional Practice

Ruth Renee Hannibal, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

## Chair, Membership Committee

Maryanne Weatherhill, M.S., CCC-SLP

## Co-chair, Convention Committee

Akilah Heggs, M.A., CCC-AUD

## Co-chair, Convention Committee

Tashima Nicholson, M.S., CCC-SLP

## Chair, Continuing Education

Edgar Vince Clark, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

## Chair, Schools Committee

Charlette Green, CAGS, CCC-SLP

## Chair, Communications Committee

Emily Wooten, M.A., CCC-SLP

## Chair, Public Relations Committee

Pat Wahoske, M.A., CCC-SLP

## Chair, Healthcare and Private Practice Committee

Catherine Carney-Thomas, M.A., CCC-SLP

## Chair, Higher Education Committee

Debra Schober-Peterson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

## Chair, Strategic Planning Committee

Colleen O'Rourke, Ph.D., CCC-AUD

## Chair, Student Affairs Committee

Camille Corica

## Member-at-Large, Finance Committee

Jill Shedd, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

## Member-at-Large, Finance Committee

Sara Chaney, M.A., CCC-SLP

## SEAL

Jill Shedd, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

## STAR

LaRae Brown, Ed.S., CCC-SLP

## Executive Director

Jody B. Rosen, APR

## ASHA CE Administrator

Erica Chatelain, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

## Lobbyists

Stan Jones, Esq.

Helen Sloat

## U from page 6

in Communication Sciences and Disorders annual conference in March in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Mark your calendars for our Thirteenth Annual Summer Institute, *Effective Strategies for Improving Functional Cognition and Communication in Dementia*, to be held on June 16-17, 2011. Our speaker will be Dr. Michelle Bourgeois of The Ohio State University. She is an expert in the area of Dementia and was featured recently in the Parade Magazine (the article was entitled Unlocking the Silent Prison). In addition, Dr. Bourgeois was named an ASHA Fellow at the recent 2010 ASHA Convention. We are lucky to have such a well-known researcher, clinician, and accomplished professional serving as our Institute Leader and hope many of our colleagues will be able to attend.

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

## **University of Georgia**

The University of Georgia CMSD program began in 2011 with 24 first-year students on campus and 19 students who are completing school and medical internships in various settings around the state and southeast. Many thanks to our talented team of clinical faculty who are providing supervision and clinical education for our students in our Speech and Hearing Clinic, including Dr. Anne

Bothe, Ms. Marilynn Cary, Ms. Kay Crabb, Ms. Nancy Dellaria, Ms. Erin Jang, Dr. Holly Kaplan, Ms. Alice Sanderson, Ms. Alisa Schultz, and Ms. Marianna Wright. We said goodbye to Ms. Linda Lauderdale, who retired from UGA after 26 years with our department with a retirement party this past summer. Linda supervised numerous students at the UGA campus and later at the Oglethorpe County Preschool. Her expertise in working with severe preschool speech and language disorders has resulted in excellent clinical education for our students and outcomes for her clients. Fortunately, Linda is continuing to work part-time at Oglethorpe County and is now one of our off-campus supervisors. We are grateful that our students are able to continue benefitting from her integrity, clinical skills, and many years of experience.

Faculty and students have had a busy fall with professional activities. Congratulations for the following publications, presentations, and professional activities (names in bold):

## 2010 ASHA Convention, Philadelphia Presentations

- **Bauer, K. L., & Schultz, A. N.** Clinical application of evidence-based practice: Mission impossible or mission accomplished? This presentation included survey data from graduate clinicians related to their training in EBP, as well as survey data from off-campus internship supervisors as to how evidence-based

See U on page 8

U from page 7

practice is applied in professional settings and the challenges associated with its application.

- **Bothe, A.K.**, & Ingham, J. Using response contingencies in evidence-based treatments for preschool stuttering.
- Hapner, E. R., Wise, J. C., & **Bauer, K. L.**: Smoking behavior change resulting from a cancer screening at NASCAR.
- **Keller-Bell**. Measures of expressive vocabulary in children with Down Syndrome.
- **Marshall, R.J.S., & Basilakos, A.A.** More difficult than they think: Perceived sense of effort in aphasia.
- **Basilakos, A.A., & Marshall, R.J.S.** Opinions regarding complementary & alternative medicine in speech-language pathology.

American Head and Neck Society 2010 Research Workshop Presentation

- Hapner, E. R., Wise, J. C., & **Bauer, K. L.** (October, 2011). Tobacco cessation as a result of community-based head and neck cancer screening.

Publications

- **Bauer, K. L., Iyer, S. N.**, Boon, R. T., & Fore, C. III (2010). 20 ways for classroom teachers to collaborate with speech-language pathologists. *Intervention in School and Clinic*, 45, 333-37, originally published online Apr 16, 2009; DOI: 10.1177/1053451208328833.
- **Bothe, A.K.** (2010). Evidence-

based practice for the real world: Thoughts on clinical education in communication disorders. *Perspectives on Administration and Supervision*, 20, 100-105.

- Davidow, J., **Bothe, A. K.**, Richardson, J. D., & Andreatta, R. D. (2010). Systematic studies of modified vocalization: Effects of speech rate and instatement style during metronome stimulation. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 53, 1579-1594.
- Ertmer, D. J., & **Iyer, S. N.** (2010). Prelinguistic vocalizations in infants and toddlers with hearing loss: Identifying and stimulating auditory-guided speech development. M. Marschark & P.E. Spencer (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Deaf Studies, Language, and Education* (Vol. 2).
- **Finn, P.** (2011) Critical thinking: Knowledge and skills for evidence-based practice. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 42, 69-72.

Professional Contributions

- Dr. **Suneeti Iyer** - Associate Editor, *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, September 2010-December 2012 and Co-editor, *Asha Kiran* (newsletter) and Executive Board Member of the Asian-Indian Caucus, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2009-2011.
- GSHA Leadership: **Camille Corica**, Student Affairs Chair; **Alisa Schultz**, Higher

Education Committee Member; and **Carol Ann Raymond**, Vice President Association Affairs and Convention Committee

Fall events included a trip to Savannah by Carol Ann Raymond to attend the Communication Sciences and Disorders Consortium that was hosted by Armstrong Atlantic State University. Many thanks to AASU for the excellent job hosting this event for representatives from Georgia CMSD programs. Kellie Bauer, doctoral student, also attended the Dynamic Larynx Workshop at the Emory Voice Center of Emory University as well as the Multidisciplinary Comprehensive Rehabilitation Following Laryngectomy course at the Milton J. Dance, Jr. Head and Neck Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Our department is currently searching for a full-time clinical instructor/supervisor (9-month position) for our Speech and Hearing Clinic to begin August 2011. For more information about the position, contact Ms. Kay Crabb at [kcrabb@uga.edu](mailto:kcrabb@uga.edu).

Watch for more information on the CSSE Summer Institute, which will be June 15-16, 2011 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education in Athens. A variety of speakers will provide information that will be relevant to SLPs and special educators. For more information, contact Carol Ann Raymond at [raymond1@uga.edu](mailto:raymond1@uga.edu), 706-542-4559.

See U on page 9



*U from page 8*

## **Valdosta State University**

Greetings from Tiletown and Valdosta State University! We are elated about this semester as we welcome 18 new graduate students to our program. Some of our beginning graduate students hail from such distant places as Seattle, Washington, Boston, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois. We, of course, have a few from Georgia and Florida.

### Student Spotlight

During the 2010 ASHA convention, Brandi Allen volunteered to serve as our ASHA ambassador. She worked several days assisting ASHA attendees in the "My Planner" room as they planned their convention schedules. Approximately 15 students attended the convention held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Katlin Fritz is VSU's student liaison for GSHA. She will receive information from the chair of GSHA's Student Affairs Committee and inform our students of any changes and upcoming events for students in GSHA.

This year for the 2011 GSHA convention, we have approximately 31 students who will be presenting along with clinical faculty, research via poster presentations. Some will also who will be moderating some of the sessions.

We have two classes of graduate students currently in either their public school placement or medical placement. They are

placed in sites in Georgia and as far away as the states of Maine and Michigan.

The VSU NSSLHA chapter continues to participate in many service oriented activities. Some of them include: Denim Day for Breast cancer awareness, Christmas caroling at the local Nursing Homes, fund raiser for The Haven, a local shelter for women, collected toys for area children, care boxes for the troops, and sponsored scholarships for attendance to the 2010 ASHA convention.

### Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Jade Coston (Principal Investigator), Dr. Corine Myers-Jennings and Dr. Stonestreet are conducting research in which undergraduate students collect and analyze language samples of child-parent dyads using the Language Environment Analysis (LENA) System. This project is consistent with goals developed for VSU's Quality Enhancement Plan. Undergraduate student researchers will gain broad and discipline-specific inquiry skills related to the ethical conduct of research, literature review process, data collection use of language assessment techniques, language sample analysis, hypothesis testing, and research dissemination. Undergraduate students majoring in CSD will be equipped to apply their clinical research knowledge and skills during future graduate level study and professional employment. In addition to the benefits of student growth and development, the project will help answer research questions regarding communicative

turn-taking opportunities within the everyday routines of young children, the effects of turn-taking on language development, and the construct validity of language sampling analysis techniques. These are important questions for multiple disciplines, including speech-language pathology, early intervention, psychology, family and child sciences, and child development and education.

Dr. Ruth Renee Hannibal will be presenting a session at the 2011 GSHA convention on the effects of dehydration and dysphagia in the health of Elderly Individuals. If you want to learn more about this area, don't miss this session. Dr. Hannibal is also a member of ASHA's Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Council. Dr. Ruth Stonestreet will be presenting a seminar on Communication Intervention tips for infants and toddlers. If you work with infant and toddlers, this session will provide you with some helpful information.

### CEU Event

The first Dr. George "Russ" Deavours Lecture Series will be held January 28, 2011 on the campus of Valdosta State University. Dr. David Daly will be presenting Insights for evaluating and treating youngsters who stutter and clutter.

We are off to a busy and exciting semester and are eager to see what new experiences await us!!!

# News from ASHA

- *Law Requires Plain Writing in Federal Documents:* The Plain Writing Act of 2010, signed into law on October 11, 2010, is designed to improve public access to government information and services through the use of clearly written material. Federal agencies are required to appoint at least one senior official to oversee implementation and training of employees in these principals. Agencies must also develop a plain-language section in their respective websites. Covered documents include:
  - *Documents required to access a federal benefit (Medicare/Medicade)*
  - *Provides information about a government benefit or service*
  - *Explains how to comply with governmental requirements*
  - *Full text of the bill, [www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h111-946](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h111-946) or information on ASHA's plain language and health literacy efforts, [www.asha.org/slp/healthliteracy.htm](http://www.asha.org/slp/healthliteracy.htm).*
- *Four New Membership Benefits Available to Members:* Four new discount programs are being offered to ASHA members through the membership affinity program:
  1. Credit and debit-card processing through First National Merchant Solutions, LLC
  2. A wellness benefit through Life Line Screening
  3. Discount car insurance through GEICO
  4. ASHA Shopping Mall

For more information about these membership benefits, visit [www.asha.org/member/service/affinity](http://www.asha.org/member/service/affinity).

- *ASHA Autism Symposium at Worldwide Conference:* The ASHA sponsored Symposium on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) at the 28th World Congress of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics (IALP) was held in Athens, Greece. The triennial symposium addressed assessment and intervention strategies for young children and adolescents with ASD. More than 900 professionals in the field of CSD from 50 countries attended the symposium. The symposium is meant to bring together professionals from different countries and cultures to influence the development of communication disorders on a global scale. The Congressional programs covered all aspects of communication, voice, speech-language, audiology, and swallowing with 12 sessions specifically addressing ASD.
- *Join ASHA's Blog: ASHAsphere-Since launching in August 2010, ASHAsphere, various authors have posted on a variety of professional development, using social media to connect with other CSD professional, service delivery in the schools, personal learning networks, and managing response-to-intervention data. Check out ASHAsphere at <http://blog.asha.org> for subscribing information or to make a contribution. You can also connect to ASHAsphere via the GSHA web site at [www.gsha.org](http://www.gsha.org).*

# Quick Tips for Communicating with Persons with Alzheimer's Dementia and Other Related Disorders (ADRD)

*Ruth Renee Hannibal, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Valdosta State University*

We depend on communication to express our wants and needs and to get others to understand us. When communication becomes impaired due to disease or illness, a breakdown in transmitting and receiving information ensues.

Individuals who suffer from dementia often have communication problems. One of the major symptoms that we see in persons with Alzheimer's dementia and related disorders is a decline in communication skills. Caregivers, clinicians, and students often times are at a loss on how to communicate with these individuals once their communication skills start to be affected by the disease process. This paper will provide a list of tips that can be used to effectively communicate with those individuals who have Alzheimer's dementia and other related disorders.

1. Since the person with ADRD remains acutely aware of the fact that he/she is an adult, speak to the person as an adult.
2. Don't address the person by using his/her first name. Only do so with permission.
3. Never argue, disagree with, or embarrass a person who has expressed incorrect information or ideas. Try using the Validation therapy technique.
4. If you do not understand what the person is saying because the words may not be making sense, reassure what the person is trying to say by relying on their emotional and nonverbal aspect of communication (facial expression, vocal tone, body posture).
5. Face the person you are speaking to and do not startle the person by approaching them from behind. Sometimes you can alert the person by gently touching a hand and calling their name. Always observe cultural differences when touching.
6. Turn off all background noises when talking to them. They may have perceptual problems that prevent them from hearing you or knowing that you are speaking to them. This decreases confusion for them.
7. Speak slowly and clearly. Use short but adult sentences.
8. Always consider and respect the dignity, cultural and social backgrounds of all individuals.
9. Never talk about or speak in front of the person as if the person is invisible (not there).
10. The use of music, themes, and reminiscence can spark involvement in activities and communication.
11. Provide "over learned" procedural memory types of activities to stimulate involvement in activities as well as communication.

The above are but a few tips that can be used with persons with Alzheimer's dementia and other related disorders.

Bowlby, C. (1993). *Therapeutic activities with persons disabled by Alzheimer's disease and related disorders*. Gaithersburg, MD: An Aspen Publication.





THE GLOBAL LEADER IN BIRTH TO 21 YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS!

*EBS is a Proud Sponsor of the 2011 GSHA Convention!*

A career with EBS offers exciting possibilities to grow both personally and professionally! EBS is committed to providing you with ongoing training, mentorship, support, and the career path you deserve. We will empower you to advance and excel in the field of speech-language pathology and truly make a difference. Call EBS today!



**MORE PLACES!**

Whether you want to stay local or experience a new destination, EBS has programs available throughout the country and internationally.

**MORE CHOICES!**

We deliver services in our clinics, homes, preschools, and schools.

**MORE OPPORTUNITIES!**

EBS provides the most opportunities from Clinical Fellowship to supervisory positions.



*professional growth • training • opportunity • mentorship & support*

[www.ebshealthcare.com](http://www.ebshealthcare.com) • 800-578-7906 • [hr@ebshealthcare.com](mailto:hr@ebshealthcare.com)