

Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association



SOUND EXPRESSIONS

A Quarterly Publication

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Carol B. Fleming
2010 ArkSHA President



I cannot believe this is my final "Presidential Perspective" and the year is coming to a close on my platform, **"Focusing on ArkSHA: Our members, Our Association, Our Future"**. What a tremendous year it has been! As I look back and reflect, I envision the excitement that was present at the first board meeting by ArkSHA's newest members. Cindy Wofford and Miranda Crabtree drove almost three hours to attend that meeting (and continue to do so). Cindy's smiling face and positive attitude have been refreshing constants throughout the year. She is such a supportive individual - always knowing just the right thing to say at the right moment. Other board members have brought the same level of passion and commitment dedication to their positions. That dedication was evident during the annual convention in October.

Rebecca Atcherson, our convention chair, worked diligently to create and present a tremendous program - **"Spotlighting the Professions"**. Her diligence paid off as the 2010 convention had the largest attendance since 2004 (which was our 50th anniversary)! Rebecca's program included speakers from a variety of settings and areas of expertise which allowed maximum educational opportunities for our attendees. She planned a silent auction which brought in \$1321 - getting many individuals and local businesses to generously donate goods and services.

President continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Letter.....	1 & 2
Convention Highlights	1
Membership Mahatma	2
DiCarlo Recipient.....	3
First PhD Recipient from ACCSD	3
Clinician's Corner	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Legislative Update	5
Spotlights from Past Year	6
Hollywood comes to ArkSHA	7
2010 Executive Board	8



2010 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

What a fun week in Little Rock. I hope everyone had fun catching up with colleagues and learning from **ALL** our speakers.

Some highlights:

- Our featured speakers-I have heard nothing but good things about them!
- Thank you to all the Friday speakers who answered the call for papers!
- The Awards ceremony and all the surprised faces. Need I say more?!
- The photo booth was a hit at the Happy Hour event. We hope to have those pictures up somewhere soon for all to see.
- The silent auction was a success as well!
- A 40% increase in attendance this year and more students attended this year than ever before! Please make plans to come back next year.
- Our registration and moderator volunteers. Thank you so much for your help. We could not have done this without you! Please consider volunteering next year.
- My wonderful committee (you know who you are) and the board. Thank you so much for your help and expertise in planning this convention. I could not have done everything without you.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as your ArkSHA chair 2010. My hat is off to Miranda for ArkSHA 2011 and I encourage everyone to volunteer to help her make next year just as successful.

Rebecca

Rebecca S. Atcherson, AuD, CCC-A
ArkSHA Vice President-Continuing Education

President continued

The donations and the generosity of our attendees allow the Association the ability to offer scholarships to worthy graduate students studying in the fields of speech-language pathology and/or audiology. Students are the future of our professions. It is essential to support them.

Thank you to the many individuals who have shown support throughout the year. Amanda Zraick, my dearest friend, has always been my ever constant source of encouragement (behind my family, of course). She and my co-workers have always been there. As a matter of fact, during the convention, I was so thankful to hear my "second husband", Deodis Fleming say, "What do you need me to do?" He came to me several times and said those very words which are "music" to the ears of members of the board. Martha Alman and Dorothy Farris even stepped in to help during the Wednesday evening registration procession. The Association is always looking for individuals to step forward and volunteer. The dedication of our volunteers is greatly appreciated - they are the "heart" of ArkSHA.

In mid-November, it will be important to check your mailbox. You will be receiving your membership renewal notice which is due January 1st (and no later than February 15th).

In that mailing, you will also find the election ballot and a copy of the proposed by-law changes. Dean Beckie Weaver chaired an ad-hoc committee composed of past presidents and current board members to update the by-laws and create a procedural manual for ArkSHA. The proposed changes have been reviewed by ASHA and meet the requirements needed for ASHA recognition. Please be sure to vote in the election and on the by-laws changes.

On a final note, get involved. Be a voice. Encourage your colleagues to join ArkSHA. Strength comes in numbers. Our Association is only as strong as our membership and volunteers. Please consider becoming one who helps in making decisions. Your voice and participation is important to our growth and development as an organization - the only professional organization representing the interests of speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the state. If you would like to become involved in ArkSHA activities, please contact me (cbflem@swbell.net) or the Association office, arksha@arksha.org.

Carol

Carol B. Fleming, M.S., CCC-SLP
ArkSHA President

MEMBERSHIP MAHATMA

(aka Aleecia Starkey)

I am so excited to report that as of October 27, ArkSHA has at total of 554 members! This is up from 333 total members in July of this year. ArkSHA had a 66.36% increase in overall membership. One of the most exciting increases was in student membership. In July there were 27 student members and the October count was 86 student members for a 133.3% increase.

One of the reason I am so excited about the student membership is they are our future. What an opportunity for those of us that are not in higher education interact with and mentor to the next generation of our professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. Convention this year was enlivened by many of the dynamic young people. I had an opportunity to speak with many of the students that were at convention and with their professors; they have so many wonderful ideas and talents that I was awed by their potential and their aspirations.

To many of the friends I saw at convention, thank you for your continued support of ArkSHA. As people who are practicing our professions of audiology and speech-language pathology, we are the sustainers, and the mentors. Two synonyms for sustainer are supporter and nurturer. Isn't it great to be able to think of ourselves as nurturers of the future?

This is my last column as membership chair. Thank you to all who nurtured me this year. My next column will be the president's column and I ask for your continued nurturing as I enter that new phase of service to each of you.

Aleecia



CAROL B. FLEMING IS THIS YEAR'S LOUIS M. DICARLO AWARD RECIPIENT



This year, ArkSHA is giving the Louis M. Dicarlo Award for Clinical Achievement to a speech-language pathologist who has been described as dedicated, enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and having worked tirelessly on behalf of the public school speech pathologist and the students served.

In 2008, she developed a web-based resource for the public school speech-language pathologist related to Medicaid reimbursement, IDEA compliance, and service delivery which would, in turn, increase/improve reimbursement and the level of services provided to those served. This resource was created while she was a member of ASHA's Leadership Development Program. In 2009, she received a copyright for her resource.

She continues to work towards the passage of an appropriations bill for speech pathologists in the public schools at the legislative level. She has been involved with this legislative issue since 2004.

She is the current President-elect and Chair of the Salary Supplement Adhoc committee for ArkSHA. In 2010, she will become the President-elect of the Council for State Speech and Hearing Association Presidents. She has also been appointed to the ASHA School Finance Committee – with a term to run 2010 to 2012.

ArkSHA is proud to announce Carol B. Fleming as this year's Louis M. DiCarlo Award recipient.

FIRST GRADUATE FROM THE ARKANSAS CONSORTIUM FOR THE PH.D. IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS!



Sheryl Shoemaker (center) with Mentor, Dee Lance (left) and Elaine McNiece (Right)

The Arkansas Consortium for the Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders, a consortium between the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Central Arkansas, is happy to announce that Sheryl Shoemaker was the first graduate to earn a doctoral degree from this unique consortium program in May, 2010. For more information about our program visit our webpage at <http://www.uca.edu/csddpc/>.



Arkansas Consortium for the Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders



TREASURER'S REPORT



Rachel Westlake
UA-Fayetteville

Being the treasurer of any organization during an historic recession can be a bit alarming. Like many other organizations and individuals across the country, ArkSHA has had to tighten its belt to cover costs. The ArkSHA Convention is an important revenue stream for the organization, so it was great to see over 600 attendees at this year's conference! A thriving membership and convention are keys to keeping ArkSHA advancing forward.



Morgan Poole
UCA

A particular highlight from this year's convention was the honor that I had of awarding **TWO** ArkSHA student scholarships. As you are probably aware, ArkSHA typically awards one Arkansas graduate student a \$1000 scholarship based on academic performance, financial need, and contributions to local, state, and national associations like NSSLHA, ArkSHA, and ASHA. This year, several applications for the scholarship were received from across the state. The selection process by the scholarship committee ended in a tie between two outstanding graduate students. Because ArkSHA was the beneficiary of a financial contribution in honor of Dr. Donna Fisher-Smiley's national Nancy McKinley Leadership Award earlier this year, ArkSHA was able to award BOTH students a \$1000 scholarship. Congratulations to this year's recipients --Rachel Westlake, a graduate student at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and Morgan Poole, a graduate student at the University of Central Arkansas.

Jeff

Jeffrey Adams
ArkSHA Treasurer

CLINICIAN'S CORNER

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

By Aleecia Starkey

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is often referred to as a "silent epidemic" as many head injuries go undiagnosed and/or untreated. This creates a substantial problem for health care providers, families and caregivers, educators and employers. The Brain Injury Association of American estimates that there are 52,000 deaths, 275,000 hospitalizations and 1,365,000 emergency room visits each year due to head injuries. About 75% of the head injuries each year are concussions or other forms of mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI).

A concussion is a brain injury and is serious. Quick appropriate response to the person injured can prevent further injury. One of the ways our young people may obtain a MTBI is through sports and recreational injuries. Coaches are now encouraged to use appropriate terms for MTBI as opposed to saying the player "had a dinger" or "got his bell rung" as this promotes the idea that players and parents should take a MTBI seriously. Coaches are now given better guidelines about returning a player to active participation in the sport. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov>) provides information for coaches in a section entitled, "Concussion: Learn to Prevent & Recognize Concussion".

Emergency rooms annually treat 135,000 sports and recreation related injuries in children 5 to 18. Children engaged in sports and/or recreational activities should be taught to wear appropriate protective gear for the activity. Parents, teachers, coaches and other caregivers may refer to the website mentioned above for information concerning the appropriate gear for each sport or activity.

The American Academy of Pediatrics wants physicians to use the term Abusive Head Trauma in Infants and Children rather than Shaken Baby Syndrome. It is felt to be a more comprehensive diagnosis for brain, skull and spinal injuries associated with shaking and other injuries inflicted on infants and children. Abusive head trauma can lead to blindness, hearing loss, cognitive loss and/or death. One in four infants with AHT dies. Typically, autopsies find that the trauma that causes death is not the first instance the infant/child has been abused.

Currently Arkansas has many undiagnosed students with traumatic brain injury, as we have slightly less than 200 students identified as having Traumatic Brain Injury as their primary handicapping condition. Arkansas should have approximately 2000 students identified as having brain injuries ranging from mild to severe.

ARKANSAS ELECTION RESULTS

The following is a brief recap of the Arkansas election results.

The House gained approx. 17 seats making the split 55 Democrats and 45 Republicans. You may recall that the pre-election split was 71 D's, 28 R's, and 1 G. As you are aware Robert Moore has been elected Speaker and he did that with a pretty solid group of R's along with his D base. Conceivably if there are enough disaffected Ds and the 45 R's stuck together they could come into session in January and vote in a different Speaker. Odds of it happening? Slim to none.

The Senate gained approximately 8 new spots for Republicans and the split is now 20 D's and 15 R's. The Senate's pre-election split was 28-7 respectively. The Senate meets tomorrow to determine committees and chairs so that should be interesting.

The constitutional races were both predictable and shocking. Beebe's dominion was no surprise but something of an anomaly considering the R tide that swept the state. Charlie Daniels, that Clinton holdover, will now move to the State Auditors Office. With this office Charlie will have served 3 out of the 7 state constitutional offices. If he lives long enough he may make it to the Lt Governor's office but I wouldn't bet on it. Ds remained in control of the AGs office and State Treasurer as well. R's have taken the Land Commissioners office (Thurston), Secretary of State (Martin) and Lt. Governor (Darr).

These last three were something of a shocker for most of us. My guess is that the people of the state are about to learn how important the Secretary of States' office really is when the next election rolls around. I'm guessing that the re-districting that will ensue come 2011 will be little affected by Martin. Likewise with Darr as Lt. Governor, Beebe won't be leaving the state very often.

Congressman Ross remains our sole D congressman.

We, Government Solutions, have most of our legislative friends in place in key committees as members, chairs or likely chairs. That includes Representative Eddie Cheatham, in the running for the House Chair of Education. The House does not name their chairs until they convene in January and the Senate named theirs' on Thursday, yesterday. I have a list of those committee members for both the House and Senate and with the Senate Chairs. Moreover the leadership in the House and Senate remains intact and as always will help us in our endeavors.

Tragically one candidate died before election day. Keith Crass, R, won district 24, Rick Saunders old district. The Governor will call another election but who knows in this political climate Mr. Crass might win again, posthumously.

Courtney

Courtney Sheppard
ArkSHA Lobbyist

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2010 CONVENTION DOOR PRIZE WINNERS Items donated from Kaplan, Super Duper, TheraSimplicity, and Rebecca Atcherson

Sherrill Archer
Aaron Bussard
Melissa Pipkin
Judy Walker

Dana Barrilleaux
Fawn Geels
Marjean Rowe
Kerri Whitson

Sharon W. Brogden
Jana Hayes
Cecile Sheppard

2010 ARKSHA MEMBERSHIP PAID OFF FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS They have won free 2011 ArkSHA membership

Andrew Chenoweth
Beverly Earls

Shelley Chumley
Dorothy Farris

Cathi Cranston





SPOTLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Kay Hall
Past President



One of the most rewarding experiences of my term on the ArkSHA Board of Directors has been spotlighting the nominees and awards. As nominations were made, I was blessed each and every time I read the information about professionals in my field and the commitment certificates were awarded to the following volunteers for their contributions to ArkSHA:

My committee of *Mara Cole, Kathy Humphrey, Susan Setzler, Donna Smiley, and Marcia Walker* were excited and inspired by those who were nominated. I challenge the membership to pay it forward by honoring those individuals who work so tirelessly in making a distinction in the life of someone else. You are each worthy individuals, so send in a nomination. We did not have a nominee for the Kleffner Award this year and I know there is a worthy individual out there.

Spotlighted this year for their many accomplishments are:

Mrs. Judith Darnell, Vilonia, Arkansas
Adult Poster Ambassador
Speech Therapist was Mrs. Janie Lumley with UAMS

Miss Tatiana MacPeck, Alma, Arkansas
Child Poster Ambassador
Speech Therapist was Mrs. Cindy Wolford

Mrs. Linda Wall - Paula Gober Award
Sallie Cone Elementary School
Conway, Arkansas

Dr. Dee Lance
ArkSHA Research Award
University of Central Arkansas

Dr. Susan Moss Logan - Honors of the Association
University of Central Arkansas

Dr. Donna Smiley - CSAP's Nancy McKinley Award

Carol Fleming - President's Recognition
Little Rock School District

Certificates were awarded to the following volunteers for their contributions to ArkSHA:

Cheri Stevenson for her dedication to ArkSHA and the professions as member of the Medicaid Workgroup

Shelly Wier for her dedication to ArkSHA and the professions as member of the Medicaid Workgroup

Brandi Nixon for her dedication to the professions as ArkSHA's liaison to the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech Pathology and Audiology

Beckie Weaver for her dedication to ArkSHA and the professions as the Chair of the By-laws Committee

Kathy Shapley for her dedication to ArkSHA with the development of a professional needs survey

Charles Dyer, Superintendent Alma Schools, for his support of the professions and collaboration with ArkSHA for the Autism/Asperger's Advocacy Workshop

Marcia Harding for her dedication and support to ArkSHA and the professions

Kathy Humphrey for her dedication and support of ArkSHA on professional issues

Jeff Adams for his dedication and work as Chair of the ArkSHA Medicaid committee.

Nanci Young in recognition of being named 2010 Pocahontas Secondary Teacher of the Year.



**Hollywood
CALLING...
2010 Convention**



**ArkSHA 2010
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ArkSHA MISSION STATEMENT

To provide leadership, professional development, and quality membership services for audiologists and speech-language pathologists; to serve as the catalyst for innovative practices in prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of communication, hearing, balance, and swallowing disorders; and to advocate for the provision of quality programs and services and for the rights of people with communication hearing, balance, and swallowing disorders.

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