



## Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition

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# The Communicator

Volume 15; Issue 1

Fall, 2010

## President's Message

Dear Members,

First of all I would like to introduce myself. My name is Tracie Guggenheim and I am proud to serve as your OSSPEAC President for the 2010-11 school year! I have been an SLP in the school setting since 1987. I have had the opportunity to work in schools in the following states: Louisiana, Florida, North Carolina, and Ohio. I am currently employed by the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools and I work with preschool, middle school, and high school aged students.

Secondly, I want to let you know about some of the action items the OSSPEAC executive board and committee members have been working on this summer. The conference committee has been getting ready for a stellar event at the Polaris Hilton in Columbus October 24-26! At this year's conference you will have the opportunity to learn, relax, shop and meet some great people. I look forward to seeing you all there.

- The Regional Events committee has been busy offering quality professional development to SLPs and Audiologists around the

state this summer! This is a relatively new endeavor for OSSPEAC and we are very proud of these events. If there is anything that you are interested in learning about and would like to host a workshop close to your home on a specific topic, let us know. We will assist you in locating a speaker, planning and hosting the event!

- Our Legislative committee members have been active this summer attending GAC and OCECD meetings. They are in frequent contact with our lobbyist, Kelly O'Reilly, and leaders from the Ohio Department of Education. Our committee members always have school based SLPs and Audiologists best interest in mind.
- Our membership committee has been gearing up to host a graduate students' reception area at our fall conference. If you have a free moment at the conference stop by the grad student room and welcome these young professionals to our conference and to our field.
- The Publications committee has been successful at getting OSSPEAC set

up with Survey Monkey. Don't be surprised if we ask for your opinions via email and Survey Monkey in the very near future! As always you will continue to receive your quarterly newsletters and e-mail blasts with all the current information you need to continue to serve Ohio's children.

- We are pleased to continue to offer financial awards to students and honor individuals that support SLPs and Audiologists through the Scholarship and Honors committees. We have added a new award this year and need your help in honoring deserving individuals. If you know or work with deserving individuals, contact us and we can help you make a nomination.
- A subcommittee has worked tirelessly to create a new Jobs and Responsibilities document. Please stop by the OSSPEAC booth at the conference to see this document and discuss the possibility of serving in a leadership position.

I guarantee you will feel as lucky as I do to be a part of this dynamic organization!

Sincerely,  
Tracie Guggenheim

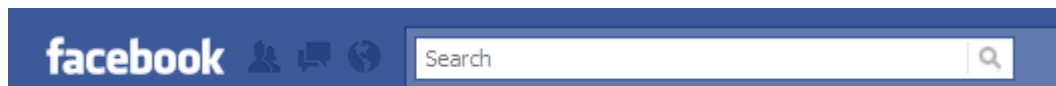
## OSSPEAC IS ON FACEBOOK!

Submitted by Amy Sonntag



Are you part of the largest social network sweeping the world right now? If you aren't you might be soon. For some fun perspective, if Facebook were a country it would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in population. OSSPEAC has joined in the fun and value of social networking and created a page. This will allow us to communicate information to you and reminders about upcoming events, conference info and tips and tricks. You will need to have a FB account to see our page. Don't worry, if you aren't on FB and don't want to join, we will still communicate via the newsletter and Express and your email inbox. This is another way for us to be connected. It isn't replacing anything we currently do.

So – how do you stay in the know? First of all, if you type OSSPEAC in the search field, you should see our page as an option. The search field is at the top of the FB page. Type OSSPEAC and click the magnifying glass.



That will take you to our page. You can visit the page at any time to see updated information.



If you want posts from OSSPEAC to appear directly in your News Feed be sure to click LIKE. You can't see the LIKE button in the picture above because I have already clicked on it. However, it will be there for you to become part of our community. It will be next to the black text that says OSSPEAC.

When you click LIKE you'll be able to write on OSSPEAC's wall. It would be great if you contributed therapy tips and tricks, websites you have found helpful, or other information valuable to others. This will also allow us to connect throughout the state. The presence of OSSPEAC on FB will eliminate the blog and picture section on the members' only section on our website. This will be an easier place for everyone to get and share information.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions – [ams.cons@prentrom.com](mailto:ams.cons@prentrom.com) – or find me on FB!

## We Need YOU!



**ATTENTION:**  
**PILASCO ROSS**  
**LINCOLN WAY**  
**NORTH CENTRAL &**  
**SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONS!**

OSSPEAC is looking for Liaisons in these areas. Liaisons are a vital part of the network of OSSPEAC. If you live and work in one of these regions, please consider being a Liaison and represent your region's

unique needs. Contact me, Nancy Archey: [nanlou@roadrunner.com](mailto:nanlou@roadrunner.com). Below is a short description of Liaisons' activities.

- ✦ Promote membership in OSSPEAC
- ✦ Collaborate to host an regional activity
- ✦ Attend annual Liaison meeting at the Fall Conference
- ✦ Submit nominations for Honors of OSSPEAC
- ✦ Write one article a year for the newsletter—a highlight of your region.

## Updates from our SLP-at-Large

Submitted by Terri Farnham

Now that school is well underway, it's time to think about the annual OSSPEAC Conference. If your district is like mine, there's a levy on the ballot this fall, and cost-saving measures are in place wherever possible, and perhaps even where they may seem impossible! Everyone in today's economy is looking for real value.

That search for value includes professional development and continuing education opportunities. Most of the professional development brochures arriving in the mail offer great presenters on timely topics, but I just can't get past the sticker shock when I get to the registration page. Just the other day, a Physical Therapy Assistant colleague was talking about the "very reasonable" price of a one-day workshop on a single topic: \$175 for 6 clock hours. While by general professional development standards, that price may be in the average range, my thrifty

nature rebelled at the price, and then gave a sigh of relief that I am a member of OSSPEAC.

This year's OSSPEAC Conference, *Promoting Stellar School-based Practices*, offers 16 clock hours over three days on a variety of topics specifically designed to meet the needs of school-based speech-language pathologists and audiologists for slightly more than the price of that one-day workshop (starting at \$180 for members who register prior to September 17). National presenters such as Doug Beck, Nancy Creaghead, Barbara and Tom Ehren, Steve Griffin, Nickola Nelson, Wayne Secord, Johnnie Sexton, Sara Smith, Carol Westby and Scott Yaruss are all available to you at one low price. Ashland University graduate credit is also available (see registration brochure at [http://www.osspeac.org/assets/attachments/file/2010Conf%20Brochure\(1\).pdf](http://www.osspeac.org/assets/attachments/file/2010Conf%20Brochure(1).pdf) for details.)

From autism to fluency, OSSPEAC is designed to provide school-based

professionals with the wide range of information we need for our complex caseloads at an affordable price. Truly, the OSSPEAC Conference offers real value in professional development! Come and be a **star!**



## OSSPEAC LEGISLATIVE REPORT—September, 2010

Submitted by Kelly O'Reilly

### ODE Caseload Study

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the State Board of Education have responded to their Caseload Steering Committee's recommendation to study how to best determine school service provider caseload ratios. They have amended their administrative rules to enable local educational agencies (LEAs) to apply for the opportunity to develop and implement a plan for an alternative plan for the calculation of service provider ratios.

As announced on August 31, 2010, a project application is now available to City, Local, Exempted Village School Districts, Community Schools and County Boards of Developmental Disabilities for one year of funding from ODE to develop an alternative caseload calculation plan. Applicants may apply for up to \$35,000. A second year of funding for implementation of the plan is also possible. ODE has indicated that it hopes to fund up to 50 projects under this study!

The application, requirements and procedures are posted on the ODE Web site (Go to [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) and keyword search *Caseload Ratio Project*). LEAs are encouraged to submit an application electronically to [exceptionalchildren@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:exceptionalchildren@ode.state.oh.us). The deadline for the proposals

is the close of business on **September 30, 2010**.

OSSPEAC SLPs and Educational Audiologists who work in the schools are strongly encouraged to work with your district to apply to participate in this important project. This is a tremendous opportunity to make an impact on this critical issue!

In the meantime, OSHGAC continues to work with our "related services provider" colleagues (OTs & PTs) on a possible legislative solution to address caseload/workload. In that vein, our coalition met with ODE officials on September 7, 2010 to discuss our strategy. The meeting went very well, and we are hopeful that our efforts continue along a constructive course with ODE.

### Legislative Activities

The Legislature has been in recess since mid-June; however, prior to their recess, legislators passed HB 215, which mandates changes to the Dental Board. The reason that this is of interest to OSSPEAC is that, prior to passage, OSHGAC requested that HB 215 be amended to include two licensure law "clean up" amendments beneficial to Ohio's speech-language pathologists and audiologists. The first amendment allowed licensees to escrow their license during an extended break from practice

(moving out of state, staying at home with children, etc.) and then apply for reinstatement with the Board when the licensee is ready to take up his/her practice again. The second amendment corrected a mistake in the statutory language relative to the grandfathering period for audiologists who had their master's degrees prior to the Au.D. requirement taking effect (January 1, 2006).

With the support of the bill's sponsors (Rep. Tom Letson and Rep. Bob Mecklenborg), HB 215 was amended to carry our language and was passed out of both the House and Senate prior to recess. Governor Strickland signed the bill on June 13, 2010 and the bill took effect on September 13, 2010.

OSHGAC worked closely and collaboratively with the Ohio Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology (OBSLPA) on the two amendments. The OBSLPA has already begun work on the administrative rules that are necessary to bring the statutory law into action. The OBSLPA has asked for OSHGAC's input on the rules, and we will continue to collaborate with them on this important part of the process.

**ASHA's Roles and Responsibilities for SLPs in Schools has been updated and revised and is accessible at the following link:**

<http://www.asha.org/docs/pdf/PI2010-00317.pdf>

## ODE/OMNIE UPDATES

Submitted by Nada Allender

Ohio schools have faced persistent shortages in available qualified speech language pathologists in both the private sector and educational settings. The Ohio Department of Education, through OMNIE, has provided several initiatives that have offered relief for school districts. The State Board of Education has funded these programs to address the immediate and future availability of professionals to deliver quality speech language pathology services to Ohio's special education students. The number of licensed speech- language pathologists in Ohio will increase dramatically as a result of these programs. It is projected that over 300 new clinicians will be added to the school workforce in Ohio by September 2013.

**Collaborative Web-based Graduate Program** has added over 30 students each January. This 3-year part time graduate program has offered students the opportunity to maintain their current employment and residence while completing program educational and practicum requirements. Students are provided \$10,000 in tuition reimbursement mid-way through the program and are expected to seek and accept school-based employment following program completion. By September 2013, this program will be discontinued, as almost 150 graduates will be added to Ohio's school work force and ODE funding support will be allocated elsewhere.

**Internship Model Graduate Program** has increased enrollment in SLP programs at Ohio universities by offering

a paid two-year full-time internship in hard-to-staff school districts. Over the past three years, 102 SLP interns have been assigned to districts across the state. Students accepted into the SLP Internship program option receive significant financial support and must commit to four years of service delivery in a specific school district in combination of paid internship and employment following graduation.

Applicants must submit Preliminary Application for the 2011 SLP Graduate Intern Program to OMNIE by January 1, 2011, and submit application to the participating graduate program(s) by January or February deadline dates. Current funding will support one additional cohort, which will begin the program in September 2011. Participating programs are University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, Ohio University, University of Toledo, and Miami University. The Internship graduate program will be discontinued in 2013. Student service delivery through OBSLPA Student Permit will continue to be available and contingent upon university approval and completion of academic and practicum requirements defined in the Student Permit law. The statute allows specifically trained individuals to provide service delivery in a highly supervised setting.

Program overviews, FAQs, Application Requirements, and Preliminary Application are available on the OMNIE website main menu: *Educational Opportunities/ Graduate Programs/ Intern Program*. School district administrator must submit "District Application for SLP Support" in order to qualify for Intern Program participation.

### **Tuition Reimbursement Scholarships**

- Any 2010 SLP or AUD graduate who accepts school based employment for the 2010-11 academic year is eligible to receive \$2,000 in tuition reimbursement. This funding will be INCREASED to \$5,000 for 2011 and 2012 graduates. Application is available on the OMNIE website/ *For SLP Students*.

**Telepractice** and **E-supervision** programs are being continued to extend the use of technology to reach students and interns in rural regions of the state.

### **SLPs Seeking ODE Licensure** - ODE

continues to support an EASIER PATH for current OBSLPA licensed SLPs to obtain PPS (professional pupil services) license required for school-based employment. OBSLPA licensed SLPs may have their credentials reviewed to determine if they may qualify for the Ohio PPS school speech-language pathology license. Application can be made to the Credential Review Board, whose primary responsibility is assessing individuals pursuing alternative routes to educator licensure and out-of-state educators seeking licensure in Ohio. Guidelines for the application process are available on the OMNIE website / *For Ohio SLPs*.

Check the OMNIE website **Employment Opportunities** link. Open school based SLP positions are posted on the OMNIE website at NO CHARGE to the district.

Questions about these opportunities can be directed to Nada Allender. (nada@ameritech.net)

## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE CHAIR CHANGES

Submitted by Bernadette Laughlin and Jane Mariani-Walker

After serving two back-to-back terms as SLP-at-large, Jane Walker served on the Legislation Committee while Christine Loddo-Bricker was Chairperson. When Christine resigned as Chairperson in 2004, Jane accepted the OSSPEAC Board's nomination to chair the Legislation Committee. The role of the committee evolved as the Board recommended OSSPEAC's participation in Ohio Speech and Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition (OSHGAC) for our lobbying efforts. This required additional responsibilities which rotated through the OSH-GAC (or GAC, as it is commonly called, (GAC Secretary, Treasurer, Chair, etc.) as well as participation in quarterly GAC meetings in Columbus. Sue Grogan-Johnson, who had served back-to-back terms as OSSPEAC President, was instrumental in laying the groundwork for OSSPEAC in GAC, and co-chaired the committee over the past three years to represent OSSPEAC at GAC meetings when Jane's work schedule made her participation difficult.

During Ohio Department Jobs and Family Services public testimony in December, 2008 Jane discussed the various issues addressed by OSSPEAC's Legislation Committee with Bernadette Laughlin. Not infrequently, many proposed legislative bills which could have dramatic repercussions for school-based SLPs were not on the agenda of the GAC. OSSPEAC's presence brought those issues to the forefront of lobbying efforts, with the backing of the other GAC member groups (Ohio Speech

Language Hearing Association, Ohio Academy of Audiology, Clinical Directors). Bernadette enthusiastically joined the committee and quickly became invaluable to OSSPEAC.

Bernadette, a Columbus resident dually-licensed as both SLP and lawyer, brings a considerable amount of skills to her position as Legislation Chairperson. She co-chaired OSSPEAC's very successful 2009 Fall Conference, and has been attending GAC meetings this past year. For the 2010-2011 year, Bernadette will represent OSSPEAC at GAC, with Jane serving as her mentor and a back-up representative. Sue Grogan Johnson serves as GAC's Political Action Committee (PAC) fund treasurer, a position of enormous responsibility and importance.

Currently, the GAC's focus has been on several proposals brought by the Ohio Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology (OBSLPA). GAC's lobbyist, Kelly O'Reilly, has been working closely with Gregg Thornton, Executive Director of OBSLPA, on the wording of upcoming rule changes. OSSPEAC has developed a very positive, close relationship with Kelly. (So much so that, when Kelly's four-year-old daughter plays like she is "working," she picks up a purse, a notebook and charmingly announces that she is going to "OSPEECH" to work.) Kelly consults with OSSPEAC's Legislative Committee and Board members on any proposed changes that could affect school speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Prior to summer recess, the Ohio Legislature passed a bill carrying two amendments that

affect our members, relative to inactive licensure (escrow) and Au.D grandfathering. A public hearing on the rule changes has already been held and we will keep you posted on OSSPEAC's website as to when the rules are adopted, as well as the specific provisions of the rules.

Outside of the legislature, Ohio Legal Rights Service (OLRS) has filed suit in federal court against the Ohio Department of Education, alleging that the Department is discriminating against students with disabilities. The suit stems from a new evidence-based model for school funding which OLRS claims will fail to meet teacher/student ratio standards. Further, the complaint states that the new funding model fails to ensure enough revenue for schools to provide students with disabilities with a free and appropriate education.

Ohio's budget troubles continue, and politics will play a huge role in policy debates in this important election year. OSSPEAC will keep you informed of the important issues to our profession on our website. Through our lobbying efforts, OSSPEAC works to develop bi-partisan support for our very crucial issues. We find that legislators of both political parties care about the important work we do once they understand how many children are affected by communication disorders. Your generous contributions to our PAC (Political Action Committee) fund allow us to keep up the important work of educating



## Give, To Get, To Give More

### *Hear the World/Appalachian Outreach*

Submitted by Carrie Spangler

In the past newsletter article I shared that I would be traveling this summer to Beverly, KY, where three of the poorest counties in the United States meet to fit hearing aids on poverty stricken individuals. July 27-30, 2010, I embarked on this Audiology Humanitarian Trip with a fellow audiologist and friend, Dr. Denise Testa and her assistant, Michelle Paul. The reward was more than I could have ever anticipated.



On this trip I had the opportunity to talk with a local pastor, Pastor Springer. He had a hearing loss and was fit with hearing aids. We shared common feelings and struggles of living with a hearing loss. He also shared that he felt that God gives us struggles along the way in order for us to appreciate and give to others. His words of wisdom which became the motto of the trip was "Give, to Get, To Give More". This is exactly how I felt the entire time I was there. You know you are giving something by volunteering your time; however, you receive much more personally as you give that you want to give even more.

#### **The Fundraiser**

Hear the World is continuously trying to raise

SUNDAY SCHOOL	
ENROLLMENT	40
OFFERING LAST SUNDAY	\$8
ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	20
OFFERING TODAY	\$11
ATTENDANCE TODAY	26

money to help people receive hearing aids through their Appalachian Outreach program. At the current time over 100 individuals in the poverty stricken area of Appalachia have received hearing aids and over 100 are still on a waiting list. Through local fundraising in North Canton and generous people, a total of \$6400.00 was raised. For every \$250.00 raised, another person was able to receive the gift of sound! A total of 22 people received hearing aids due to local donors!

#### **The Trip**

An eight hour trip to Beverly, KY, two hours through mountainous terrain got us to Red Bird Mission. Driving to Beverly, KY opens your eyes immediately to the chronic poverty that exists, the lack of availability to apply for a job due to no commercial areas, and the difficulty in transportation due to the mountains. I was horrified by the area knowing that I did not need a passport and I could get there by driving on a tank of gas. The drive itself gets your mind into the spirit of giving and wanting to make a difference for citizens in the United States.

#### **The Impact**

The people of Appalachia are gracious and appreciative for everything that Hear the World was able to do for them. Many of these individuals had been waiting over a year to get hearing aids. Each time I put new hearing aids on someone, their face lit up and they said...."I have not heard this way for years, thank you!" There was one group of ladies from the Henderson Settlement, about an hour drive who all got hearing aids. Six ladies were giddy and gracious as each of them heard clearly for the first time in a while. One lady commented that they would be telling each other to shut up and quiet down now that they could finally hear! There were many hugs, smiles, tears of joy, and words of appreciation and encouragement shared throughout the time we were at Red Bird.

#### **The Message**

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring.....all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

Have a great year!!! Hope to see everyone at the OSSPEAC Conference!

## 2010 Conference Program in Audiology

Submitted by Suzanne L. Secord

In our last newsletter, I described the *constellation of excellence* we have planned for you in audiology. We will have some outstanding and motivational presentations by Doug Beck, Stacey Rich, Daniel Choo, Kris English, and Johnnie Sexton. You can read about all of them again by visiting the OSSPEAC website at

[www.osspeac.org/conference](http://www.osspeac.org/conference).

Johnnie Sexton's presentation, however, has been tweaked a little. It is now open to friends and family members. To find out more about this wonderfully inclusive opportunity visit (insert URL here). Please share his brochure and registration information with the families you serve. Johnnie's program, the Care Project,

looks at the emotional stages of grief and the community support structures that are available.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and join us October 24 – 26, 2010. We promise to bring you current concepts and strategies that you can put to use right away. It's going to be stellar.

OSSPEAC 2010:

Promoting

Stellar

School-Based Practices



October 24 – 26, 2010

Polaris Hilton Columbus

## OSSPEAC Conference 2010!

Submitted by Lisa M. Smith,  
Conference Co-Chair

Hello again fellow OSSPEAC members! I hope you all have had restful and enjoyable summers. My summer has flown by in a whirl of conference planning. As it is almost time for the conference, I wanted to bring you some exciting information from the conference planning committee regarding this year's conference:

- A new feature this year is online registration! Save yourself some time, save a stamp, and enjoy the convenience of using your credit card on a secure site and go register for the conference! The link to the online registration form is

available on OSSPEAC's website at: <http://www.osspeac.org/site.cfm/conference.cfm>. Here you will also find our fall program line up. It is stellar! Look over the registration form quickly to take advantage of the best pricing options.

- We are very excited to work with the Hilton Columbus/Polaris for our conference this year. I encourage you to visit their website at <http://www.hilton.com/en/hil/groups/personalized/CMHPOHF-OSSPEC-20101024/index.jhtml> and look at hotel reservation information. The Hilton Columbus/Polaris can also be reached

at (614) 885 – 1600 for reservation questions. Reservations must be made by October 10<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate a full house so don't delay!

- We are pleased to bring you an exciting new opportunity to contribute to our favorite OSSPEAC scholarships while enjoying shopping discounts at the Polaris Fashion Place. Look for more information via email, your conference program, and at the registration center at the conference.

I hope everyone starts off the school year in a stellar way. On behalf of the conference planning committee, we are excited to see everyone on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>!

## HONOR! HONOR! HONOR!

Submitted by Carrie Spangler, Honors Chairperson

It is that time of the year again when we need to be thinking of the great OSSPEAC speech-language pathologists and educational audiologists who "Remove Communication Barriers for Ohio's Children".

*"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not."*

--Oprah Winfrey

Many of your colleagues are out there doing the right thing. As members of OSSPEAC, you have the ability to nominate and honor your fellow SLP's and Audiologists. It is EASY and it is a wonderful tribute to HONOR others.

This year we have 3 Honors for OSSPEAC. We have added an award to honor a member of OSSPEAC who continues to **make a difference in their local community**. This award is called the Founders' Award in honor of the founding members of OSSPEAC. The other honors include the Honors of OSSPEAC and Outstanding Service.

Take a moment, read the Award descriptions, and Honor one of your colleagues. Submit nominations and letters of support to [carrie.spangler@e-mail.sparcc.org](mailto:carrie.spangler@e-mail.sparcc.org).

## We've Inspired!

Many thanks to those SLPs who participated in Project Inspire over the last four years encouraging others to pursue a career in speech pathology and audiology. Collectively we inspired 440 SLPs-to-be to support students in schools and the project has come to an end having been extremely impactful on our profession primarily the school setting. Those who took moments out of their days to 'talk it up', 'join the team' or promote 'communication happening in schools', have all **reached out to touch the future** and we thank you!

Barb and Kathy, *retired* Recruitment Coaches



## Construction is finished on the SLP GUIDELINES

The construction has ended; orange barrels and yellow tape have been removed allowing the TWO final SLP Guidelines modules to move full speed ahead. The final modules uploaded will be Pragmatic Language authored by Linda Vaughn and Cognitive Communication authored by Roberta DePompeii, Ph.d. In addition, Kathy Staugler authored a section of the Academic Content Standards appropriate for your use with students with low incidence disabilities. Each module is loaded with resources and guidelines to support service delivery. The Cognitive Communication module has several power points narrated by

Dr. DePompeii in addition to other resources provided to support your work with students. The Pragmatic Language module is a wealth of supports for students of all ages and disabilities. In addition, all of the modules underwent a summer inspection: new information was added to each, dead links removed and new links provided. In short, they each received a tune up! So be sure to log onto [www.omnie.org](http://www.omnie.org); scroll down the right side and click on SLP Guidelines which will take you to twenty hot topics to assist you in delivering cutting edge services to your students.

## Audiology Corner

Submitted by Susan Bussard,  
Audiologist-at-Large

### Teens, Tunes, and Hearing Loss

If you have been listening to the national news lately, you are most likely aware of the recent studies indicating that teen hearing loss is on the rise.

The Journal of the American Medical Association recently published results of a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, indicating that one in five teens have a hearing loss, and the problem has increased substantially in recent years. The researchers analyzed data on 12- to 19-year-olds and compared hearing loss in nearly 3,000 kids tested from 1988-94 to almost 1,800 kids tested over 2005-06. Results indicated that the prevalence of hearing loss increased from about 15 percent to 19.5 percent. In addition data supports that over half of teenagers and college students are listening to personal music players at risky levels – levels that have the potential to cause permanent hearing loss. Although the researchers didn't pinpoint MP3s or iPods as specific causes, they believe these audio devices are not totally blameless, especially since another recent study from Australia linked the use of personal listening devices with a 70 percent increased risk of hearing loss in children.

It is nice to see national attention focused on audiology and issues that we as educational audiologists have long been concerned about. Release of this information gives us an ideal opportunity to revisit the importance of providing hearing conservation programs for our students. If you are like most of us, we are always busy, and hearing conservation seems to be one of the aspects of educational audiology that we tend to put on the back burner. These recent findings, however, reinforce our knowledge of the importance of these programs, and can serve as a catalyst for finding the time to incorporate hearing conservation into our services.

To help you get started, following is a summary from ASHA of hearing conservation for programs for kids, as well as a list of articles that provide more information on hearing conservation.

#### [Listen To Your Buds](#)

The "Buds," two cartoon ear bud characters designed to appeal to young children, represent an ongoing campaign to raise consumer awareness about the potential risk of hearing loss from personal audio technology. The Buds appear on free bookmarks, banners, screensavers, and more, featuring The Rules of Thumb, simple safety guidelines for children 6 and older.

#### [It's a Noisy Planet: Protect Their Hearing](#)

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) campaign "It's a Noisy Planet" is designed to help parents of 8- to 12-year-olds teach their children how to avoid hearing loss from overexposure to loud noise. The campaign features a Web site that offers advice to parents on the causes and prevention of noise-induced hearing loss, how to recognize when a child's hearing is at risk, and ways to reduce noise exposure. The site contains games, posters, and interactive information about noise and hearing loss tailored specifically for teens.

#### [National Hearing Conservation Association for Kids](#)

NHCA is an excellent resource, with activities and materials, information on protecting children's hearing, and children's hearing conservation programs including [Dangerous Decibels](#) and "[Crank It Down!](#)" [PDF, 1.8MB].

#### ["Be Aware of Noise Generation"](#)

A 3-day curriculum focusing on teaching children about noise and hearing loss, can be downloaded from the [Military Audiology Association's Web site](#).

#### [Wise Ears!](#)

To help prevent noise induced hearing loss, the [National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders \(NIDCD\)](#), the [National Institute for Occu-](#)

[ational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#) and more than 60 diverse national organizations created the WISE EARS! <sup>®</sup> hearing health education campaign.

#### ASHA Member Web Page Information

- [Prevention Profile: Audiologist Prevention Activities Get the Word Out](#)

#### Journal and Online Articles

- [Providing an Educational Hearing Conservation Program for Kids](#). Shannon White. (2003, September). *The Hearing Review*.
- [Why Aren't Hearing Conservation Practices Taught in Schools?](#) Robert L. Folmer. (2002, July 2). *Audiology Online*.
- [Hearing Conservation Education Programs for Children: A Review](#). Robert Folmer, S. E. Griest, & William Martin. (2002). *Journal of School Health*, 72 (2), 51-57.
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# OCALI

## Learn, Grow and Connect at the 2010 OCALI Conference

The fourth annual OCALI Conference and Exposition will be held November 16-19 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Over 2,000 participants from around Ohio and across the United States are expected to attend.

Over 150 sessions by state and national leaders will be offered at the conference.

CEUs and university credit through Ashland University will be available. Up to 1.9 ASHA CEs will be available, pending approval. Topics include assessment, behavior, assistive technology, communication, early childhood and transition to adulthood.

Topics of particular interest to SLPs include:

- Communication and Behavior - Understanding Underlying Challenges of High-Functioning ASD
- Functional Communication Training for Parents
- iPod: Its Apps to Therapeutic and Daily Living Environments
- Pillars of Effective Communication for Children with Autism
- Step-by-Step Dissection of Videos to Teach Social Skills
- Encourage Social Skills and Communication Through the Use of Books
- Making Sound AAC Decisions: Promises and Pitfalls
- Augmentative Communication Evaluations Simplified
- Negotiating Funding for Speech-Generating Devices

Explore the content of all of the sessions using the Session Sorter in the OCALI Conference website:

[http://conference.ocali.org/view.php?nav\\_id=10](http://conference.ocali.org/view.php?nav_id=10)

**What:** 2010 OCALI Conference and Exposition

**When:** November 16-19, 2010

**Where:** Greater Columbus Convention Center

**Who:** Anyone whose life is touched by autism or low-incidence disabilities.

**Why:** Continued growth and development for parents, educators and other professionals who live and work with individuals with autism or other disabilities.

### 2010 OCALI Exposition

4:00 - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, November 16

Free and open to the public

### 2010 OCALI Conference

Wednesday - Friday,  
November 17-19

Rates vary; check the website for details.

[conference.ocali.org](http://conference.ocali.org)



## ODE Updates

Rule 3301-51-09, Delivery of Services, in the *Operating Standards For Ohio Educational Agencies Children with Disabilities* was updated effective July 23, 2010. The changes to section (I) (6) of this rule authorize the Ohio Department of Education to partner with selected school districts and Boards of DD to look at alternate methods for calculating the ratio of how many students special education services providers, including slps and audiologists may serve. Please work with your district to come up with alternative systems for determining caseload/workload and submit a proposal to ODE. The timeline is short; these are due by October 15, 2010. Entities may request up to \$35,000 to support the implementation of this project.

The following documents are available at [www.edresourcesohio.org](http://www.edresourcesohio.org).

- Handouts from the September, 2010 Special Education Leadership Conference
- The Guidance Document and IEP Annotated Guide were updated as of September 2, 2010.
- Who's IDEA is This?, the procedural safeguards were updated on June 14, 2010. The document has also been translated into the top 10 languages in Ohio (who knew!) Albanian, Arabic, Chinese (simplified), Chinese (traditional), Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. Somali is coming soon.

OEC is developing an ETR-GPS to assist with the evaluation team report process. OEC reminds us that the evaluation is a "team sport" and utilizing the planning form in a meaningful way is expected.

The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) has been redefined for preschool. It now focuses both on where the majority of the special education services are delivered as well as where the child spends time. OSEP is looking at Ohio's LRE practices carefully.

## Renew Your Ohio Board License!!

The Ohio Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology reminds us that our license renewal deadline is December 31, 2010. Do not delay; there is a \$150.00 late fee. The Board recommends online renewal. Renewal notices have been mailed. If you did not receive your renewal letter, contact the Board at [board@slpand.ohio.gov](mailto:board@slpand.ohio.gov) or (614) 466-3145.

## Membership Update

Submitted by Laura Novatny

Welcome back members to the 2010 – 2011 school year! I hope you have taken the time to renew your membership and register for conference. The OSSPEAC board met twice over the summer to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members. We continue to offer our premium fall conference, quarterly publication of *The Communicator*, advocacy via our partnership with the Governmental Affairs Coalition (GAC), as well as regional events and affordable liability insurance. Be sure to share with colleagues all we have to offer and how easy it is to join via our website [www.OSSPEAC.org](http://www.OSSPEAC.org). Have a great year!

## ASHA News for School Based SLPs and Auds

Deborah Adamczyk, Director of School Services for ASHA has developed a School Practitioners Impact Group site. To join go to: <http://spiofasha.groupsites.com>. Some of the recent resources reported on include the Evidence Based Briefs offered online at no charge by Pearson Inc. at <http://www.speechandlanguage.com/ebp/>. The topics include:

1. Evidence Based Vocabulary Instruction for Elementary Students via Storybook reading
2. Classroom-based versus Pull Out Language Intervention: An Examination of Experimental Evidence
3. Remediation of Phonological Disorders in Preschool Age Children: Evidence for the Cycles Approach
4. Choosing the Language of Intervention for Spanish-English Bilingual Preschoolers with Language Impairment
5. A Clinical Language/Literacy Decision: Evidence-based Story Grammar Instruction
6. Finding, Analyzing and Implementing a Phonemic Awareness Intervention: Guidelines to a Decision-Making Process
7. The Use of Phonics in the Teaching of Reading and Spelling
8. Making Informed Decisions about Literacy Intervention in Schools: An Adolescent Literacy Example

For those interested in Universal Design for Learning, ASHA informs us of a contest developed at the National UDL Center ([www.udlcenter.org](http://www.udlcenter.org)). The "Designing UDL" contest aims to give educators at all levels the opportunity to share how they put UDL principles into action. Entries in four categories are eligible for prizes of up to \$500. Contest details can be found at <http://designingudl.ning.com/>. Deadline to register is December 1, 2010.

If you would like to learn more about UDL, visit these websites:

- <http://www.cast.org/research/udl/index.html>
- [http://www.ideapartnership.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1496:universal-design-for-learning-udl-dialogue-guides&catid=277:starters-universal-design-for-learning-](http://www.ideapartnership.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1496:universal-design-for-learning-udl-dialogue-guides&catid=277:starters-universal-design-for-learning-)
- <http://www.udeducation.org/>

### 2010-2011 Board of Directors

President: Tracie Guggenheim ([tracieslp@roadrunner.com](mailto:tracieslp@roadrunner.com))

President Elect: Terri Farnham ([terri.farnham@gmail.com](mailto:terri.farnham@gmail.com))

Secretary: Katie Boarman ([KBoarman@coventringschools.org](mailto:KBoarman@coventringschools.org))

Treasurer: Carol Lepi ([lepi@esclc.org](mailto:lepi@esclc.org))

Past President: Nancy Archey ([nanlou@roadrunner.com](mailto:nanlou@roadrunner.com))

Audiologist at Large: Susan Bussard ([susan.bussard@email.sparcc.org](mailto:susan.bussard@email.sparcc.org))

School★Based Practices

Stellar

Promoting★

OSSPEAC 2010:



October 24 - 26, 2010  
Polaris Hilton Columbus



**OSSPEAC**  
**205 Glendale Street**  
**LaGrange, Ohio 44050**



## Call for Nominations

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OSSPEAC honors committee has begun the process of obtaining nominations for Honors of OSSPEAC. The awards will be presented at the Fall Conference. The 3 award categories are Honors of OSSPEAC, Founder's Award, and Outstanding Service Award.

### Honors of OSSPEAC:

This honor is awarded to a speech/language pathologist and /or educational audiologist who has worked in a school/educational setting and is currently an OSSPEAC member. This award is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions through:

- Participation in/contribution to OSSPEAC
- Outstanding clinician/supervisor
- Provided or initiated innovative programming
- Contributed to publications/literature/research
- Other areas of achievement deemed worthy of nomination

### Founders' Award

This honor is awarded to up to two members in good standing who exemplify the mission of OSSPEAC, "Removing Communication Barriers for Ohio's Children" will be honored. The speech/language pathologist and/or educational audiologist will have made an impact through service to their local school district or student(s) in their school district. The following information is considered when nominating a member:

- Improving the life of students who have speech, language, and hearing needs
- Collaboration with district personnel, parents, and students
- Excellence in innovative contributions and programs to the work setting
- Professionalism
- Leadership at the local level

*This award is presented by OSSPEAC in honor of the Founders' of OSSPEAC.*

## Outstanding Service Award

This award is presented to an individual who has provided outstanding support to speech/language pathology and/or educational audiology services being provided in a school/educational setting. Individuals may include a classroom teacher, administrator, classroom assistant, educational interpreter, intervention specialist, occupational or physical therapist, counselor, social worker, parent, legislator, or member of another organization.

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### Honors Nomination Form

Award Type: ( ) Honors of OSSPEAC ( ) Founders' Award ( ) Outstanding Service Award

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous and Current Positions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Educational/Certification and Professional Memberships:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- ***Please attach a letter of nomination outlining the contributions deemed worthy of recognition. One additional letters of support must also accompany the nomination.***

Nominations and letters of support may be submitted via email with "OSSPEAC Honors" in the subject line.

Please mail or email all information as soon as possible to: [carrie.spangler@email.sparcc.org](mailto:carrie.spangler@email.sparcc.org)

Stark County Educational Service Center

Attn: Carrie Spangler, Audiologist

2100 38<sup>th</sup> St. NW

Canton, OH 44709