

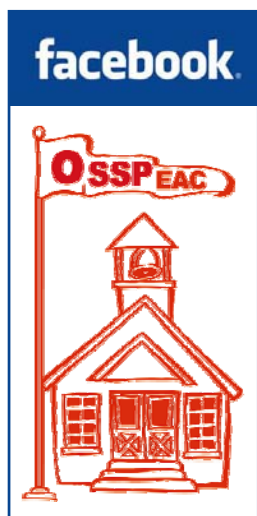


Ohio School Speech Pathology Educational Audiology Coalition

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The Communicator

September, 2011

Summer, 2011

President's Message

"Back to School" night in our school occurs the night before school begins: all the children and their parents come for just a few minutes to meet the teacher, drop off supplies and emergency cards, and then go home to get ready for the big morning ahead. It is my privilege to stand in the entrance and guide new families to their classrooms. I love to see the looks of anticipation, camaraderie, and (at times) trepidation on the faces of the children and their parents. Going to school or sending a child to school for the first time is a huge step for families, and returning can be challenging as well, though in a very different way.

Whether you are facing the year with anticipation or trepidation, OSSPEAC's vision is to support all Ohio school-based speech, language and hearing professionals as they accomplish the mission of removing communication barriers for children. One big way we give life to our vision is through our annual conference. This year's con-

ference, **Focus on Communication**, will be held October 23, 24, and 25 at the Polaris Hilton in Columbus. Those of you who were there last year know what a lovely facility this is. The conference committee has been hard at work planning a superlative program and getting a warm welcome ready for you. Plan to join us! Check out the details at www.osspeac.org.

As we open a new year, it is also my privilege, and with great anticipation, to introduce the new OSSPEAC Board and Committee Chairs to you, and to encourage you to get to know these people, and to support them in their work on your behalf. Many thanks to our officers:

- President Elect - Katie Boarman
- Immediate Past President - Tracie Guggenheim
- Secretary - Kirsten Marconi
- Treasurer - Carol Lepi
- Aud at Large - Susan Bussard
- SLP at Large - Amy Ewing

Committee Chairs:

- Conference - Lisa Smith
- Honors - Carrie Spangler
- Legislation - Bernadette Laughlin
- Membership - Sarah Prahler
- Publications - Kathy Jillson
- Newsletter - Kate Butler
- Website - Amy Miller-Sonntag
- Publicity - Chris Cowgill
- Structure - Samantha Hoffman
- Scholarship - Lydia Rzucidlo
- Time and Place - Dottie Wise
- Nominations - Abby Friedman
- Historian - Linda Genisi
- Finance Committee - Kelley Mendoza
- University Liaison - Chuck Carlin
- CEU chair - Jodeen Erfurt

Terri Farnham,
2011-2012 OSSPEAC President



OSSPEAC 2011 Fall Conference: Focus on Communication

October 23-25, 2011

It's not too early to register for the 2011 OSSPEAC Fall Conference! Let's start "Focusing on Communication" as we all dive back into another school year!

Visit www.osspeac.org/conference to access to conference brochure, hotel reservation information, and online registration.

Looking for the best economic deal at the conference? Here are your options:

- The best registration price for this year's conference is the member price of \$180 that expires on September 17th. You can still register for the conference, but not at this great deal! Not a member? Visit www.osspeac.org to access the membership registration form.
- Volunteer positions are still available! Hoping to obtain complimentary registration? That means you attend the conference at no charge! Email Lisa Smith at lryckbost@gmail.com for more information. All that is required is a little bit of your time to coordinate volunteers for our registration booth at the conference!
- Session preferences are back! Carefully peruse the conference website and please select the sessions you may be interested in attending on your registration form. We are working hard this year to best utilize our meeting room space.
- There will be two lunch opportunities this year. Review this information in the conference brochure at www.osspeac.org/conference for more details!

OCALI at the Conference!

OCALI is pleased to participate in the OSSPEAC Conference once again, providing our computer lab and offering two sessions on timely topics:

Sunday, 10/23/11 3:00 – 5:00

Session #2: *Developing Social Competence in Individuals with ASD: Increasing Successful Social Communication* - Wendy Szakacs Being able to develop the ability to interact socially can be one of the most challenging aspects of life for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This presentation will define social competence, show why it is an integral part of developing a successful life, and relate the underlying characteristics of ASD to acquiring social competence. Strategies and how to embed them in the school day will be shared.

This will be a hands-on session in the OCALI Lab and will be offered 2 times:

Tuesday, 10/25/11 8:30 – 10:00 or Tuesday, 10/25/11 10:15 – 11:45

Session #48: *iPad or iFad? A Discerning Look at Apps for Communication* – Nick Weiland

We have recently seen a proliferation of mobile apps marketed for communication. Some are well-designed products and others have little value as communication devices. This session will examine a variety of apps for communication and offer a rubric for making a sound clinical judgment to best meet client needs.



Julie S. Kelly Memorial Scholarship Recipient

The generosity of members like you made it possible for OSSPEAC to award a Julie S. Kelly Memorial scholarship of \$2000 to Dianna Tenyak, a graduate of Wadsworth High School in Wadsworth, Ohio. Dianna was sponsored (nominated) by OSSPEAC member and speech language pathologist Susan Vogel-song. Six Ohio high school seniors with documented hearing loss were nominated by OSSPEAC members. The Scholarship and Grants Committee reviewed the nomination packets of all six nominees. Committee members rated each candidate based on their honors and activities, letters of recommendation, comments made by sponsoring their OSSPEAC member, and narratives submitted by the nominees. Dianna submitted her bio and photograph below for the fall issue of the OSSPEAC newsletter.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be writing in the OSSPEAC Fall Newsletter! As the 2011 recipient of the Julie S. Kelly Memorial Scholarship, I am honored to represent the organization in her memory. I am currently starting my first few days of my classes here at Ashland University. The degree I am pursuing is Early Childhood Intervention Specialist. My goal in life is to work with elementary children with Autism and Down syndrome. Because of my hearing loss, I know that there are some challenges in life, and I want to encourage my students to believe that with hard work, nothing is impossible.

I love all my classes so far at Ashland University. I am taking a variety of classes; the majority of them are core classes. My favorite class is Phonics because it is my only education course this semester, and it is interesting to learn how to teach the simple concept.

“
Thanks again for giving me the honor of receiving this scholarship. I am determined to make you all proud and honor Julie S. Kelly’s memory!
”

I am working on campus at the Recreation Center this year. My job position is Equipment Check Out. It is an interactive job and I love that I get to meet new people every day. I also plan on playing club basketball and soccer this year. I believe that getting involved on campus is the best way to make the most out of your college career!

There are many people I would like to thank for making me the individual that I am today. My family members are my number one supporters. They have always been there for me and helped me adjust to my hearing loss. I’d also like to thank my speech language pathologist, Susan Vogel-song. I met her when I was three years old and newly diagnosed with my hearing loss. She never put any limits on me and told me I could do anything I put my mind to. To this day, she is one of my closest friends! My audiologist, Mark Norin, was a friend of Julie’s and spoke very highly of her on both a professional level as a colleague and on a personal level as a family friend. With everyone’s guidance, I feel prepared to conquer life at Ashland University.

Thanks again for giving me the honor of receiving this scholarship. I am determined to make you all proud and honor Julie S. Kelly’s memory!

The Scholarship and Grants Committee thanks you for your donations to the Julie Kelly Memorial Scholarship fund and purchases of basket raffle tickets during the 2010 OSSPEAC conference. The committee will again conduct the basket raffle at this year’s conference. We will see you there!

Liaison



Links

REGION 6

Caryn Timmerman, Liaison

What a busy time of the year! As school SLP's we can say this at any-time of the year. I hope everyone is rejuvenated for an action packed school year. The OSSPEAC Conference will be coming soon and is always a great place to go when it comes to "being stuck" as to what to do with a particular student or several students.

I know that districts are having very times right now. If you find that you are unable to attend the OSSPEAC Conference, there are other resources to help you. OCALI, The Ohio Center of Autism and Low Incidence, is a particularly helpful resource. OCALI has developed video modules that explain a host of topics pertinent to working with students with autism. The videos are approximately 30-90 minutes in length. They are a great way to learn about a topic that may benefit your students.

OCALI has also partnered with Michigan Integrated Technology Supports (MITS) and Kansas University Department of Special Education to present upcoming webinars in various areas of Assistive Technology.

I wish you the best to a new school year. Perhaps these small webinars will provide the "nugget" of information you need in order to support your upcoming case load. Good luck!

Region 3

Melissa Pawlak, Liaison

Hello from Region 3. I'm Melissa Pawlak, new liaison for this region. This is my first position with OSSPEAC and I'm very excited about it. However, I'm not new to committee work for I have served as the Continuing Education Chair for OSLHA in the past. This is my first tenure as liaison and I look forward to serving in this capacity. I'm employed with Bedford City Schools and I'll be starting my twelfth year this upcoming school year. Prior to the public school setting I worked with PSI Affiliates and provided speech and language services to students in the parochial schools. Between both settings, I've had the opportunity to work with all ages ranging from preschool through high school-age and my caseload has ranged from mild to severe. Currently I service grades 1-3 and high school.

I don't know about you but I still get excited and look forward to the start of a new school year and 2011-2012 is no exception. I'm refreshed, energized and ready to implement new ideas that I've learned from the professional development courses that I've attended as well as utilize the helpful resources and links that I've discovered. One of the materials that I'm most excited to use is the "Expanding Expression Tool (EET)" created and authored by Sarah Smith. I attended Sarah's presentation at the 2010 OSSPEAC conference and was so motivated that I came back to my building and spoke with my principal and she asked me to write up a grant for our PTA. Much to my surprise the PTA funded the grant and after receiving the EET I began using it with my caseload and I've had the opportunity to implement it with an entire third grade class for a few months.

The EET is designed to "boost the student's oral and written expression skills." It helps expand word choice, keeps students on topic, reduces the need for prompting, and improves organization and comprehension." It's a hierarchical approach that takes the student's expression from words to paragraphs to reports. The EET is multisensory and uses a color symbol coding system which makes it fun and easy for every student to learn. The students organize language elements which helps give them more detailed descriptions and definitions. Since I've started using the EET in the spring of 2011 my students 'love to use it.' It is my goal to use it throughout my entire building with all of the students in order to help expand oral and written language skills. I'm thankful to have a supportive administrator and staff so I'm extremely optimistic about the success the EET will have with all of the students.

Another professional development course that I've attended in 2011 is "Speech-Language Pathologists and RTI: Practical Ideas and Strategies for Working Successfully with Students," with presenter, Lorraine Maida. Lorraine shares the "Role of the SLP" within each Tier. Many of her ideas and resources that she provided during the presentation have been extremely helpful when it comes defining the SLP's role within the RTI framework. She also provides resources for data collection and motivating materials. Below is a list of internet resources for you.

- <http://greatlearningnow.com> This is Lorraine Maida's website and you can go to the free downloads for data collection charts, materials, and other links.
- <http://www.carlscorner.us.com/> This is Cherry Carl's website w/many relevant literacy and therapy ideas and materials.

Liaison Links (Continued)

- www.themoviebox.net/trailers Trailers for current movies that work well to practice critical thinking skills.
- <http://kids.mysterynet.com/solveit/> Great mysteries that motivate students to critically think and problem solve.
- <http://classroom.jc-schools.net/waltkek> A teacher developed site with a myriad of activities to teach vocabulary. Targeted at Scott Foresman stories and vocabulary but the activities are universal to any published reading materials and curricular goals.
- <http://www.5minutekids.com> Site to purchase therapy materials and efficacy data to support a five minute per day pull out model for articulation therapy for a target student population.
- <http://www.interventioncentral.org> Jim Wright's website which is a wealth of information on RTI with add'l helpful links. Under on-line tools access "Chartdog" to create graphing of student achievement. Designed for educational purposes.
- <http://www.rtinetwork.org> Provides step by step implementation of an RTI model and allows you to create your own blueprint for your building or district.



I hope that you find these resources helpful and I wish all of you a successful and fun-filled school year.

See you at the 2011 OSSPEAC Conference!!!

OSSPEAC Call to Action!!!

Ten Easy Steps to Hosting Your State Legislators at Your School!

1. Who are your state legislators? Find out at www.legislature.state.oh.us. At the top of the website, click on "Search for Legislative Information." Scroll down to "Find Legislative Information."
2. From there, scroll down to "Find Legislator by Zip Code." Enter the zip +4 for your school (not home). The +4 will narrow the search to your exact legislators.
3. The names of your legislators will come up. Click on their names to bring up their contact information in Columbus.
4. Write an introductory e-mail or letter to your legislators. Invite them to your workplace.
5. A few days after sending your message, follow up with a phone call. Ask to speak with the legislator's legislative or administrative aide. Explain that you are a constituent (use that word) and that you are calling to follow up on your written invitation. Ask for the aide's help in scheduling a visit.
6. Plan a visit schedule that conforms to the amount of time the legislator has available. Be sure to allow for time for a tour of your school and time to talk with staff.
7. Check with your school's policy for arranging for visitors and follow any directives.
8. With the legislator's permission, take digital photos of the visit that can be used for press releases. If you include children in the photos, make sure there are releases on file.
9. Provide simple snacks and beverages (e.g. coffee and cookies) at the end of the tour. This is a good time to give your legislator written information about your program (how many students you serve, how many students are served in the district, the categories of disabilities and age groups served, facts about the school, etc.)
10. Follow up the next day by sending your legislator a handwritten thank you note. In your note, remind your legislator about the important work you do and how important legislative support is to the work you do. Consider having some of the children write thank-you notes, if the activity supports their IEP goals, and include those notes with your own.

Tip: For this visit, avoid partisan political discussions. Your conversation should focus on the work you do and how you are transforming the lives of children every day!

ODE/OMNIE UPDATE

Submitted by Nada Allender

As all of OMNIE's initiatives have begun to wind down, we continue to be grateful to the Ohio Department of Education for providing five years of significant funding to support the education, recruitment, and retention of school based SLPs. The Telepractice Pilot Program and district sign-on bonuses have now been discontinued. Both the ODE/OMNIE Collaborative Distance Learning Graduate Program and the SLP Intern graduate program option are no longer admitting new students. Students currently involved in the programs will continue, with the expectation that all will graduate by August of 2013. The OMNIE website will remain intact and in full operation until that time.

Since 2007, these educational and financial opportunities have dramatically increased the availability of speech-language pathologists in Ohio schools. OMNIE's goal was to insure that 80-100 new SLPs would be available for employment each year...and this has been achieved and guaranteed until 2013. While there will always be a need for SLPs in both the educational and private sectors, this year marks the first year that there have been numerous reports from new graduates who were unable to secure a school-based po-

sition in their regions. With our current economy and the fragile financial state of many school districts, administrators have often chosen not to replace retirees as a cost saving measure. Unfilled positions are fewer and fewer, as some administrators are choosing to increase caseloads for existing SLPs rather than hire new professionals. And for the very first time, two OMNIE Interns beginning their CFYs have not returned to their school districts due to *reduction in force*.

The Intern program continues to be highly successful. A total of 37 new Interns will be providing services to Ohio's special education students in 2011-12. Breakdown of employers is as follows: 18 educational service centers; 18 local and city districts; and one county board of developmental disabilities. The 2012-13 school year will mark the LAST YEAR that SLP Interns will be available for placement, as the participating universities have admitted 33 new students into this graduate program option. School district applications and requests for an SLP Intern are NOW OPEN and available on the OMNIE website. Applications will be evaluated and intern assignments will be made beginning in March 2012.

In August, OMNIE and the University of Cincinnati sponsored the third

annual Workshop for SLP Intern Supervisors. Presenters included JoAnne Prendeville, Susan Givler, Signe Stitt, Sally Disney, Kelly Wade, and Lisa Williamson, with participation by Jen Glassman and Marianne Malawista. This highly attended event is held each summer to prepare and support SLPs in their roles as Intern supervisors.

This will be the FINAL year that ODE/OMNIE will offer the tuition reimbursement incentive (\$5,000) to any 2011 graduate accepting a full time employment in the Ohio schools. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted by November 1, 2011, although application deadline will be extended for December, 2011 graduates. In 2010, 65 new SLPs benefited from the tuition reimbursement initiative, which also provides current employment and salary data across the state. Application is available on the OMNIE website: www.omnie.org



2011 OSSPEAC
Fall Conference
"Focus on Communication"

October 23 - 25

Polaris Hilton
Columbus, Ohio

Focus on Leadership within our OSSPEAC Organization

OSSPEAC is searching for future leaders within our organization! OSSPEAC provides many services on behalf of our members. Most notably we offer an annual statewide conference with a program that focuses on the needs of school based SLPs and Educational Audiologists. We have a lobbyist who keeps us aware of government issues that affect our professions. We offer regional events for our members to earn CEUs and gain useful knowledge. We provide scholarships and grants to students and professionals. This just names a few of our member benefits. However, these services would not be available without the dedication of the leaders in our organization. These few individuals within OSSPEAC work vigorously to maintain and improve the services we provide to our members. If you have reaped the benefits of some of these services, then this is **your** opportunity to give back to our organization. Furthermore, if you enjoy taking on leadership roles, then this is **your** opportunity to step into a position on the OSSPEAC board. We have a variety of positions available, and any amount of time you are able to give will be for the benefit of our members and organization. It takes strong leaders to keep OSSPEAC running, and you are that leader!

Here are a few available positions for the current OSSPEAC board:

President-elect

Audiologist-at-large

Liaison chairperson

Treasurer



We always need members to serve on committees such as, conference, scholarship, nominations, liaison, and many more. If you are hesitant to take on a chairperson role this may be a good fit for you.

OSSPEAC will be offering a “Focal Points on Leadership” program at our conference on Tuesday during lunch. Please attend if you are considering taking on a leadership role within our organization. Contact Katie Boarman, president-elect, at (330) 256 – 4719 or kboarman@uakron.edu to learn more about leadership opportunities within OSSPEAC.

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

~John Quincy Adams

OSSPEAC Legislative Update – September 2011

Kelly O'Reilly, Governmental Policy Group

While the Legislature enjoyed a post-budget summer recess during July and August, cabinet and administrative agencies remain busy attending to their policy agendas. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) recently implemented its long awaited new computer system called MITS. Over time, this system will change the way that all Medicaid providers submit billing and receive reimbursement and may impact the way that school district bill for services under the Medicaid Schools Program (MSP). Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Looking ahead to this fall, there are two issues on the statewide ballot that may be of interest to OSSPEAC members. Issue 2 is the widely publicized effort to repeal Senate Bill 5, legislation passed earlier this year which impacts collective bargaining rights of school employees. A “yes” vote on Issue 2 will keep SB 5 in place, while a “no” vote on Issue 2 will repeal SB 5. Another ballot issue of note for OSSPEAC members is Issue 3, which has been called the “Ohio Healthcare Freedom Amendment”. If voters approve Issue 3, it would block Ohio implementation of the federal healthcare reform “individual mandate” which would have required individuals to carry healthcare coverage by 2014.

Ballot language and arguments for and against each ballot issue can be found on the Ohio Secretary of State’s website at <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/IssueProcBallotBd/BallotBoard.aspx#Issues>. In addition, we can all expect quite a few media ads on each of these issues prior to the November 8, 2011 general election.



OSSPEAC

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