Congratulations to our newly elected 2019 board members!

Rachel Glade, PhD, CCC-SLP, LSLSCert. AVT(President-Elect)

Shelly Keller, MCD, CCC-SLP(Vice-President for SLP Services)

Aletha Cook, MS CCC-SLP(Vice President-Elect for Continuing Education)

Shayla McCullough, MS, CCC-SLP(Secretary)

They will be joining returning board members: Ashlen Thomason (Past President), LeeAnn Griffith (President), Amy Shollenbarger (Treasurer), and Jennifer Fisher (VP Continuing Education).

President’s Message

Ashlen Thomason, PhD, CCC-SLP

Helen Keller famously said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” In the present turbulent political climate with so many other “squeaky wheel” concerns, being heard can feel daunting. As audiologists and speech-language pathologists, we worry about large caseloads, productivity demands, increasing documentation expectations, practice infringement, school walk-outs, hearing aid dispensers, loss of Medicaid and Medicare coverage for patients, and many other pressing issues. Why even bother with one letter to a representative, one phone call to a senator, one vote? It can seem futile to even try. We are clinicians, not political activists, right?

Famous in our circles, but having much less name recognition among the general public is Helen Keller’s “teacher” (speech-language pathologist, for all intents and purposes), Anne Sullivan. Did you know that Anne was visually-impaired after contracting trachoma at five-years of age and attended a school for the blind? Anne was essentially the blind leading the blind [and deaf]; yet together, she and Helen managed to overcome seemingly impossible obstacles. You may not consider yourself a political person. Maybe your scope of political knowledge does not even extend beyond what you remember from your high school civics class. Join us. Being a part of ArkSHA is a platform to align yourself with others with little to no political background to make great strides in the policy arena.

(continued on page 3)
ArkSHA MISSION STATEMENT
Connecting, learning and communicating with audiologists, speech-language pathologists, future professionals and consumers through:
Advocacy  
Education  
Mentoring  
Networking  
Resources  

ArkSHA 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The views expressed by the authors in this newsletter do not necessarily represent that of the board/association.

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2 | OCT/NOV/DEC  Sound Expressions
I became involved in ArkSHA because I was a new clinician experiencing a relentless sense of unease regarding the future of my profession. Though being involved in advocacy has given me a more heightened awareness of the reality of the threats that we face, this year has taught me the value of collective voices. Helen Keller was right: together we really can do so much. Standing together as an association in 2018, we have made many strides with defining our roles and responsibilities in public schools, communicating the value of our services to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, establishing our role in multidisciplinary care in treatment of students who have autism spectrum disorders, and defining best practices for multilingual children. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this year under the tutelage of the incredible Jeff Adams; among a fantastic Board of creative, hardworking, change-makers like LeeAnn Griffith, Amy Shollenbarger, Charity Avery, Chenell Loudermill, Cliff Franklin, Melanie Meeker, Jennifer Fisher; our talented ASHA Liaisons, Lauren Rogers, Carol Fleming, Cheri Stevenson, and Aletha Cook; selfless Ad Hoc members and committee volunteers such as Kami Rowland, Maria Romero, Amy Faith, Michelle Donnell, Carlee Barker, Miranda Crabtree, and Melodee Owens; our accomplished lobbyists Courtney Sheppard and Randy Thurman; and our wonderful executive director, Marilyn Porterfield. Thank you all for a great year of service. Our voices become increasingly difficult to drown out as our association grows. I hope you will renew your membership in ArkSHA and enter 2019 with a renewed sense of hope for continued change and protection for our jobs and the clients we serve.

Happy New Year!
Ashlen Thomason, PhD, CCC-SLP
ArkSHA 2018 President

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**Betty Bass Student Scholarship**

The 2018 recipient of the Betty Bass Student Scholarship is MaryAnne Atchley-Babb. She is a graduate student at the University of Arkansas Communications Disorders Program with a 3.73 cumulative GPA.

In her scholarship application reference letters MaryAnne was described as an engaged and diligent student who asks meaningful and intelligent questions that show a deep interest in and understanding of the material.

Thank you to all who donate to the scholarship fund throughout the year. Make a donation at www.arksha.org. Without your donations, these yearly scholarships would not be possible.

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Thank you to Melanie Meeker for her hard work in planning the 2018 Annual Convention and bringing in a variety of speakers to appeal to all attendees.

Thank you to Ashlen Thomason for leading ArkSHA in 2018. Ashlen was presented with a plaque for her 2018 work as President of ArkSHA.

Pictured Left: Amy Shollenbarger won the 50/50 drawing at the ArkSHA Convention! Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets to help raise money for the Betty Bass Student Scholarship.
ArkSHA is proud to announce Dr. Kimberly Frazier as the recipient of the 2018 ArkSHA Research Award. Kimberly was nominated by Rachel Glade.

Dr. Kimberly Frazier’s work in peer-reviewed journals as well as her book Foundations in Phonology: Linguistic Development, Speech Pathology, and communicative disorders (2017) is well respected by national and international audiences. She is also a co-investigator of the $1 million dollar Team for Transition grant to better train professionals to work with teens with special needs using an interdisciplinary model. Her contributions in the areas of speech sound disorders, social-emotional development, and communication disorders is well deserving of recognition by her peers of the Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Dr. Frazier is an Associate Professor for the Communication Disorders program in the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas. She also serves as both Director of the Communication Disorders program and Graduate Coordinator. She has been on faculty of the University of Arkansas since the fall of 2007, and has brought distinction to the University with her scholarship, teaching, mentoring and service.

Dr. Frazier is a Co-PI on a 2017-2022 US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs grant. This grant has been very beneficial to our program by funding the graduate studies of five communication disorders scholars per year for the next five years. These twenty-five students will receive a Master’s degree in Communication Disorders with a specialty in transition services. Dr. Frazier has been instrumental in developing this interdisciplinary graduate certificate program with a specialization in transition for people with high need disabilities across six disciplines.

The primary focus of Dr. Frazier’s current scholarly agenda is social-emotional learning and executive function in various populations. Her most recent publication on executive function and social skill support was published in Journal of Life Care Planning and discussed strategies for working with individuals with traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Frazier’s scholarly endeavors extend to the classroom and her passion for teaching as well. It is noteworthy that she co-sponsored a resolution submitted to the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD) requesting to appoint a task force to explore the feasibility of critical thinking as a professional competency. CAPCSD is proposing critical thinking as an area that should be addressed in all programs across the country, and they may even make it a required competency. Dr. Frazier was ahead of her colleagues and added this course to her program curriculum and is currently conducting research to determine the effect of coursework in critical thinking on graduate students’ clinical practice skills.

Dr. Frazier has also been extremely ardent in her work as research mentor and supervises the research of several undergraduate students each year. These students have benefited greatly from her mentoring and have won awards and fellowships, been featured in publications, and have presented both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Frazier has consistently been a leader in teaching, mentoring, and service for the University of Arkansas. In 2017 she was received the Outstanding All-Around Faculty award for the RHRC Department of the College of Education and Health Professions. Her research efforts in 2017-2018, including a much-needed application-based text book and receiving a $1 million interdisciplinary grant, are commendable and will certainly have an impact on the field of communication disorders for years to come.
ArkSHA is proud to announce Dr. Gregory Robinson as the recipient of the 2018 Frank R. Kleffner Clinical Career Award. Gregory was nominated by Elizabeth Cleveland.

Dr. Robinson has changed the lives of a wonderful group of transgender clients through his expertise on transgender voice therapy. His creativity and knowledge has allowed these clients to receive this important therapy through the UAMS/UA-LR Speech and Hearing Clinic. He is truly focused on using his clinical abilities for bettering the community and helping those who need it.

Kristina Olson shared her thoughts and personal experience working with Dr. Greg Robinson as a client and then as a co-mentor in the TLC Transgender Speech Clinic as part of a joint program between UAMS/UALR in the Little Rock area:

When I approached Dr. Robinson in September 2016 I had no idea that there was a blueprint for an active speech program for transgender clients but it currently had no clients - therefore no ability to train students. I certainly didn’t think that I would be a good fit for the program since my voice was so deep, but Dr. Robinson was certain that he could help me.

Over the next several years, as I quickly came to know Dr. Robinson and the various student clinicians associated with my therapy in the program I was consistently amazed at the level of thought, vision, planning, and care that was woven into every aspect of the program. From the perspective of most of the student clinicians it may be initially seen as just a lab associated with another class on their way to their post-graduate degree - but that never lasted long. For the clients it can be ABSOLUTELY life changing and that rubbed off on the student clinicians every single time.

Dr. Robinson asked me once to provide a few words about how the program changed my life and this is what I provided him after about 5 minutes of thought. I think it says it best and fully supports my strongest possible recommendation that he receive a clinical excellence award that he has been nominated for.

“I really didn’t have any great expectations when I came in for the first time. I am equally sure after meeting me and your team’s initial assessment of my voice - you honestly didn’t either. I am completely blown away with the progress I initially made in just the first two short months, and at a larger scale, over the last full year of therapy. I know this therapy and working with the team is really the most amazing thing that I have ever done in my life. You have helped me complete one of the last barriers to transition that I had before me. I can never possibly thank all of you enough for the profound impact that you have made in my life. We will forever be friends.”

I am now a co-mentor of the program as a graduate of the program and have a small role in guiding its direction going forward as we continue to grow.

Dr. Robinson also received additional support from Jody Cerrato, MS, CCC-SLP, of the Little Rock School District:

I have worked with Dr. Robinson for the past year as an adjunct supervisor for the TLC therapy group. I have witnessed first-hand the positive impact this group has made, not only on its clients, but on the students who participate each semester as well. I fully support his nomination for the Frank R. Kleffner Clinical Career Award. Dr. Robinson has consistently demonstrated meaningful contributions toward voice therapy for the transgender community and with educating future Speech-Language Pathologists. It is an honor to work and learn from him on a weekly basis. There is no one I would more highly recommend to receive this award.
ArkSHA is proud to announce Wendy Roark as the recipient of the Paula J. Gober Public School Award. Wendy was nominated by Michelle Donnell.

Wendy goes above and beyond for her students and staff. She works hard to cultivate relationships with her students and goes above what is expected to help them achieve in the classroom. I have watched her many times put her own work aside to help other SLP’s with issues and questions. She has a genuine heart for people and puts others at ease because they know she is truly there to help.

Wendy Roark currently serves as a Lead SLP for Springdale School District. Wendy has worked as a school based SLP for 16 years in Arkansas and Pennsylvania. She also works in private therapy settings. She credits two speech-language pathologists that were mentors for her, Dixie Branscum and Karen Reyna.

Jeannie Smith, Sonora Middle School Special Education Teacher, shared her thoughts and personal experience working with Wendy:

It is hard for me to put into words how committed Wendy Roark is to students, families, and teachers. She was not only my child’s speech path in elementary school but she was the speech path next door to my room who served my CBI students my first year of teaching. She not only served the students with excellence but she mentored me and modeled for me so that I still use everything she taught me daily. Wendy created communication opportunities all over my classroom whether I sought advice or not, she is just one of those rare people who can look at a situation, size up need, and find the right resource. A few weeks ago I mentioned to her that my homebound student has a new communication device and the family is working to learn how to use the device so that within minutes I had emails on AAC users, Tobii Dynavox and articles and videos on the importance of modeling with an offer to help me and help the family herself. Wendy is always learning and listening, she uses ideas I have which makes me feel good, and she knows her students inside and out. Wendy always has the latest information on anything Speech or Sped related seemingly at her fingertips and I think this speaks to her passion for her profession. I feel like she eats, sleeps, and breathes speech pathology and is at the same time one of the most kind and generous coworkers I have ever had.

Marleah Hannaford, Special Education Teacher, had similar thoughts to share:

Wendy is by far one of the most selfless and caring individuals I have ever met. She constantly goes out of her way to ensure everyone’s needs are constantly met, usually putting herself last. She was one of the best speech pathologists I have had the pleasure of working with. She strives to teach each student individually and equally, and ensure their quality of therapy and education is top-notch. I believe this award would be most honorable for Wendy and could not think of a better person to receive this award.
ArkSHA Annual Convention
October 10-12, 2018 • Little Rock, AR

A variety of vendors were in attendance for attendees to visit with and get information from.

Seminar rooms were packed for each session!

The view for the Betty Bass Fundraising Social was fantastic and enjoyed by many.
Lily Robbins was nominated by Rachel Glade to be this year’s Child Poster Ambassador.

Lily Robbins, an energetic little girl, has already overcome more than many have experienced. Pregnancy with Lily was considered “high-risk”, and she had the potential of being born with mild to severe congenital birth defects, and heart and kidney problems. Instead she was born with a VSD (hole in her heart), which eventually closed on its own, and she failed her newborn hearing screen. Lily was diagnosed with bilateral, mild-sloping-to-severe hearing loss at one month old. At seven months of age, Lily’s hearing loss had progressed to a bilateral, severe to profound, sensorineural hearing loss. From the beginning, Lily had excellent family support. They immediately completed consistent follow-up audiology appointments at Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH) in Little Rock and enrolled in Auditory-Verbal Therapy (AVT) through ACH in northwest Arkansas. After several consultations and a lot of research on the part of the family, they elected to pursue the cochlear implant candidacy evaluation through ACH. Lily received her right Advanced Bionics cochlear implant in the summer of 2012 and her left Advanced Bionics cochlear implant in the early spring of 2013.

The family continued to take an active role in audiology appointments at ACH and through AVT sessions provided both at ACH and at the University of Arkansas Speech and Hearing Clinic in Fayetteville, AR.

Prior to receiving her cochlear implant, Lily had also been diagnosed with a severe delay in both speech and language development. She continued to demonstrate a severe delay in both speech and language development when she initially received both cochlear implants. Her family remain persevered. They consistently attended audiology appointments as well as weekly AVT sessions. By five years of age, and just before she was set to enter her mainstream kindergarten classroom at Jerry Pop Williams Elementary in Farmington, AR, Lily’s speech and language testing demonstrated that her performance was well within the average range of performance when compared to peers of her same chronological age (who had normal hearing).

Lily has always been intrinsically motivated to learn. Lily’s kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Sara Tenison of Farmington Elementary commented, “Lily is on a first grade reading level and has wonderful expression while she reads. Lily is a great writer and comes up with creative topics every day. She has been working on a book to make the world a better place by asking kids to stop punching other people. In math, Lily works really hard and is wonderful with addition and subtraction. She is able to group numbers and is learning how to put them together in new ways. Lily is a leader in my classroom. She is always working to be her best and learn new things. I am so lucky to have her around and it has been a joy to watch her grow all year.” She is currently excelling in Ms. Miranda Cowgur’s first grade classroom as well.

Outside of school, Lily enjoys soccer, horseback riding, playing with her big sister, as well as her many friends and cousins. She approaches all things in life with an amazing spirit and great tenacity. She loves to interact with people and to help people, and has the ability to find joy in almost everything she does. She has also developed quite the singing voice.

Additionally, Lily is currently an active participant at Arkansas Hands & Voices events across the state of Arkansas. Arkansas Hands & Voices is a non-profit organization for families who have children with hearing loss that supports all forms of communication. She is always eager to “show people her ears” (what she calls her cochlear implants), which seem to be consistently color coordinated with her outfit.

Lily is already a great spokesperson for children with hearing loss and her future is undoubtedly bright.
Jeff Morris was nominated by Kathy Humphrey to be this year’s Adult Poster Ambassador.

It has been my privilege to serve Jeff when he was a little boy as his speech pathologist for treatment of a severe dysfluency disorder. When I first met Jeff he was a first grade student in the regular education classroom and his teacher referred him to me for an evaluation. His mother and father were aware of Jeff’s “stuttering” but did not know that he could receive services at school. So that is when I met Jeff. He was such a cute little guy and came willingly to my office where I immediately determined that he did, indeed, need to be evaluated and subsequently placed in speech therapy. So our journey began and I saw him several times a week over the next few years. He was a very sensitive child and when he thought someone else was upset he would stutter more frequently and really struggle to communicate.

But Jeff was very determined and he was so interested in what we were doing and always tried hard to follow every detail of instruction. At first he made small progress but eventually he began to make more and more progress until he barely stuttered at all. From there his communication just took off! Working with Jeff as one of my first cases of severe stuttering was a challenge and one that I took very seriously. I knew from conversations that his mother was quite concerned and I wanted to do my best to help him. His willingness to work hard and follow through with his “homework” made me determined to do mine as well and I researched the topic of dysfluency to find ways to help. Helping Jeff caused me to think outside the box and stretched me and made me a better therapist that carried over to the next child with dysfluency that I had the opportunity to work with.

Jeff did very well in High School and then went to Williams Baptist College where he graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration. During his College career he accomplished many things and won several awards for public speaking. Jeff was actively involved in the collegiate organization Phi Beta Lambda or PBL. He competed in the regional PBL competition category of Impromptu Speaking and won 1st place. He went on to compete in the state competition in Little Rock and received 1st place in state for Impromptu Speaking. He was then elected to the state officer board of PBL as Communications Director and served in this position for two years. In the summer of 2013 Jeff competed in Anaheim CA in Marketing and won second place. Jeff also won 3rd place for Impromptu Speaking at the Phi Beta Lambda 2013 National Conference. In 2015 Jeff earned 1st place as Future Business Executive at the 2015 Phi Beta Lambda State Conference.

After graduation Jeff went on to excel in his career choice as he became the first ever Industrial Development Intern to Mayor Charles Snapp helping to entice industries in Walnut Ridge and surrounding areas of Lawrence County. This job required Jeff to deliver numerous speeches to public venues about the possibilities of these endeavors. Since that time Jeff has gone on to other career options and became a Field Representative for Senator Tom Cotton. Jeff is now the Projects Director for Senator Tom Cotton and is responsible for speaking and writing speeches.

As you can see from this long list of accomplishments in Jeff’s career as a public speaker he has certainly overcome his dysfluency and the limitations it had placed on his communication. Jeff is a very determined young man and I am sure this is only the beginning of what we will “hear” from him!

Jeff Morris
Adult Poster Ambassador

OCT/NOV/DEC  Sound Expressions  |  9
ArkSHA Members recognized for achievements at ASHA Convention in Boston

Donna F. Smiley
ASHA Fellowship of the Association

“The status of Fellow is retained for life and is one of the highest honors this professional organization can bestow. It recognizes professional or scientific achievement and is given to a member who has shown outstanding contribution to the professions—contributions that are significant and would be so regarded within and beyond one’s community or state. Our profession has thousands of members who fulfill their responsibilities competently and well, but only a small percentage have, by virtue of the quality and amount of their contributions, distinguished themselves sufficiently to warrant recognition by election to Fellow in ASHA.”

Carol B. Fleming
Dorothy Dreyer Award for Volunteerism

“The Dorothy Dreyer Award for Volunteerism may be given annually to one individual who has made significant and outstanding volunteer contributions to ASHA and serves as a model of volunteerism to others. It was the founder’s wish that this award be used to acknowledge the volunteer time and efforts of current ASHA members including those who, through employment and/or life constraints, may not have been afforded the opportunity to hold one of the highest elected positions in the Association.”

Kami Rowland
ASHA Leadership Development Program, 2018 Graduate

“The Leadership Development Program is a year-long program for ASHA members with leadership potential. The program encourages you to develop your leadership skills and give back to the professions through volunteering—whether with ASHA, at your workplace or for a related professional organization.”
Scholarship Donation Form

We are able to offer scholarships to our student members each year thanks to your generous donations throughout the year, and our social and auction at the convention. You can donate in honor of or in memory of someone, if you choose. Current students are the future of our industry, and we are glad we are able to support them when needed.

Name: ________________________________________ Phone: _______________________
Address: ________________________________ City: ______________ ST: ____ Zip: _________
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I would like to make a contribution to the ArkSHA Scholarship Fund in the amount of $ __________

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Check #: _______________

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ArkSHA
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October 2-4, 2019

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