



Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

SOUND EXPRESSIONS

Vol. 18, Issue 4



President's Message

LeeAnn Griffith, MS, CCC-SLP

Season's Greetings colleagues! If you are anything like me, you thoroughly enjoy all of the sentimental holiday commercials this time of year. One of my favorites has a Star Wars theme. It depicts two young boys, undoubtedly future audiologists or speech-language pathologists, who are clearly on a mission as they scour the neighborhood collecting an odd assortment of tires, scrap metal, and cardboard. It soon becomes apparent that they are building a spaceship and, as with most practicing clinicians, they are relentless in their pursuit of perfection. When they are finally satisfied with their masterpiece, we meet the young girl who is the recipient of all of their hard work. As she sits in the spaceship, the viewer soon learns that these boys haven't built just any old spaceship. No, they were going for the full experience, complete with water sprays, fans, and a bouncing chair; all meant to replicate riding through the galaxy while watching Star Wars. The little girl is amazed, and as the movie draws to an end, we learn that this little girl happens to be deaf. These two boys wanted their friend to be able to experience the thrill of a Star Wars movie even though she couldn't hear it.

This is at the heart of what we do every day for our clients, students, patients, and/or their families; we make it possible for them to share in the same experiences, as much as possible, as their peers without communication disorders. As we rise to the challenges of expanded caseloads, increased scopes of practice, and ever-changing political climates, let us keep in mind that we are indeed the experts. During the past year, the board and committees of your ArkSHA association have worked tirelessly in their pursuit of advocacy, both on behalf of the clients we serve, as well as on behalf of you as a fellow professional. The ArkSHA Advocacy in Action section highlights much of the important work that has taken place during 2019. This work included serving on task forces, meeting with key legislators, developing of an Interim Study Proposal, and participating in the debate to remove the IQ requirement for Medicaid reimbursement.

Not only is it important that we stick together as professionals; we must also align with occupational and physical therapy associations to address legislative issues that impact us all. ArkSHA is currently involved with

several other associations in the formation of a Therapy Council in order to increase our presence legislatively. If I have learned anything this year, it is that there is indeed strength in numbers, which is one reason why your membership in ArkSHA is so important. For example, the first question I was asked by a congressman when discussing how potential legislation infringed upon our scope of practice was, "but don't you just work on speech sounds?" When I informed him of all of the areas we serve and what we bring to the table, his next question was, "So how many members does your association have?" Please never doubt that your membership matters.

In closing, it has been my extreme honor and privilege to serve as your President this year. I am very grateful to the 2019 ArkSHA Board of Directors (Rachel Glade, Ashlen Thomason, Amy Shollenbarger, Shayla McCullough, Jennifer Fisher, Aletha Cook, Shelly Keller, Samuel Atcherson) our ASHA Liaisons (Lauren Rogers, Cheri Stevenson, and Portia Carr), as well as our executive director Marilyn Porterfield and lobbyists Randy Thurman and Courtney Sheppard, who are all powerhouses in their own right. I have learned a great deal from each of you and am excited about the year ahead. Wishing you all a blessed holiday season and a joyful new year!

2019 ArkSHA Board of Directors

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ArkSHA Advocacy in Action

communicate voice lead defend courage support passion
power strength education members change policy history
connection move good

ArkSHA currently has representatives and lobbyists advocating for:

- Removal of IQ requirement in the Arkansas Medicaid Manual
- Support for the **Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact**
- Support of the **Professional Certification Coalition** (ASHA is a member), requiring that professionals must be licensed to practice audiology and speech-language pathology (this is actually coming up in other states, so I think we need to let our members know we are fighting against this)
- Facilitating Prompt and Accurate Enrollment for Medicaid Providers
- Support of the **Interim Study Proposal (ISP) bill** filed for School-Based SLPs endorsed by **Representative Jana Della Rosa**
- Protecting and supporting the Scope of Practice of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists from infringement
- Support of the Parent Choice Coalition, joined by **ASHA**, to support parent choice in choosing the communication modality for their child with hearing loss
- Support the expansion of hearing aid and hearing technology coverage across the lifespan

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ArkSHA is stronger with you!



Connect with ArkSHA on Social Media!



Be sure to use #ArkSHA when connecting with us!

Check out our website, www.arksha.org, where we will continue to make updates.



Shayne Brown, 2019 Betty Bass Scholarship Recipient

Shayne Brown is a graduate student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and was selected to receive the 2019 Betty Bass

ArkSHA Past President, Ashlen Thomason [2nd from left], presented Shayne Brown [center] with her scholarship check and certificate at a UAMS practicum meeting where students and faculty were present. Also in photo, L-R: Betholyn Gentry, Connie Bracy, Shana Williamson

Scholarship. Shayne has been a member of the local National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapters for five consecutive years and held officer positions from 2017-2018 at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville and at the graduate level at UAMS from 2018-2019. She has been a national NSSLHA member and ArkSHA member for two consecutive years.

Congrats to the members of the 2020 ArkSHA Board

President: Rachel Glade
President-Elect: Aleecia Starkey
Immediate Past President: LeeAnn Griffith
Secretary: Shayla McCullough
Treasurer: Kelli Watts
VP of SLP: Shelly Keller
VP of Audiology: Donna Smiley
VP for Continuing Education: Aletha Cook
VP Elect for Continuing Education: Miriam Stafford

2019 ArkSHA Award Recipients Nominate for 2020 now!

Frank R. Kleffner Clinical
Career Award
Beckie Weaver, PhD, CCC-
SLP

Louis M. Dicarolo Award for
Clinical Achievement
Elizabeth Cleveland, MS,
CCC-SLP



The Frank R. Kleffner Clinical Career Award, honoring a clinician who exhibits distinguished, outstanding clinical career accomplishments was awarded to **Dr. Beckie Weaver**. Dr. Weaver retired from Harding University in July, 2019 after 37 years of outstanding service as a teacher and administrator. Among Beckie's many accomplishments are founding Dean of the College of Allied Health in 2019, Professor of Communication Sciences & Disorders, chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Director of the Harding Speech and Hearing Clinic, chair of the IRB, founder and director (2010-2016) of the Harding University in Zambia Speech-Language Pathology program (HIZ-PATH), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Fellow (2012) As Fellow, Dr. Weaver assisted in making decisions for the field of speech-language pathology nationwide, advocated for the rights of clients, and helped shape the educational requirements for future speech-language pathologists.



The Louis M. Dicarlo Award for Clinical Achievement, awarded to a clinician who has advanced the knowledge in clinical practice as evidenced by a significant recent accomplishment within the past six years in speech-language and/or audiology, was awarded to **Elizabeth Cleveland**. Elizabeth was recognized for this award for her creation of two major clinical accomplishments: an interprofessional treatment clinic called "Baby Birds" and a new interprofessional Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) assessment clinic. Elizabeth is the creator Baby Birds, a clinic housed in the UALR Speech and Hearing Clinic that provides low-cost services to families of children ages 1 through 3-years with speech or language delays. Elizabeth made Baby Birds part of the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Grant, which opened the program up for faculty and student involvement across 15 different health disciplines. Elizabeth is also the pioneer of a new interprofessional Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) assessment clinic—the only one of its kind in Central Arkansas and the only clinic in the state dedicated to diagnosing or ruling out FASD. Elizabeth is a doctoral student in the Arkansas Consortium

Paula J. Gober Public
Schools Award
Vanessa Boomer, EdS, CCC-
SLP



The Paula J. Gober Public Schools Award, recognizing distinguished clinical service by an individual in a public school setting was awarded to **Vanessa Boomer**. Among her many career accomplishments as a school-based speech-language pathologist, Vanessa stood out for this award because of her trailblazing work in creating a feeding protocol for children with dysphagia in the public school setting. Vanessa worked with Easterseals, dietitians, occupational therapists, and physical therapists to develop a feeding and swallow protocol used within the Bentonville School district and adopted by many other schools across the state. Vanessa has worked to train every para-professional, speech pathologist, severe/profound classroom teacher, cafeteria worker, and countless others in our feeding and swallowing protocols in Bentonville schools. Vanessa has presented at ArkSHA Convention and was recently accepted to present her research and protocols

for the Ph.D. in Communication Sciences Disorders.

Honors of the Association
Dana Barrilleaux, MSE, CCC-
SLP



Honors of the Association, the highest honor the association can give and recognizes distinguished contributions to the field of communication disorders, goes to **Dana Barrilleaux**. Dana was chosen for this honor based on her exemplary model of professionalism, her career-long loyal service to ArkSHA, and her outstanding supervisory skills and mentorship that has greatly enriched the professional careers of many clinicians. Among Dana's many career accomplishments include serving four small schools in Leslie, Witts Springs, Alread, and Scotland as an undergraduate clinician, an SLP for Greenbrier Public Schools and Arkansas' Home Health Services after graduating with her master's, later as an SLP for Arkansas Children's Hospital Kid's First programs from 1991-1996, skilled nursing facilities from 1996-2000, and with Conway County's Centers for Exceptional Children for the past 20 years. Dana served as ArkSHA President in 1998. Dana is known for championing her colleagues involved in service to ArkSHA,

at ASHA Convention.

establishing a campaign in support of May, Better Speech and Hearing Month (BHSM) in what had traditionally been a somewhat isolated area of the state in Southeast Arkansas, advocating for Medicaid rate increases for speech pathologists and audiologists and for ABESPA Rules and Regulations for Speech-Language Assistants, and carrying a torch of mentoring others by her self-proclaimed mentors Dr. Elaine McNiece, Betty Fusilier, and Jim Thurman.

ArkSHA Ambassadors

The ArkSHA Ambassadors recognize individuals who may have made significant gains in therapy or overcome unsurmountable odds--someone who has inspired, uplifted you and others, and reminded you why you are an audiologist or speech-language pathologist. Our ArkSHA Ambassadors represent our Association during Better Hearing & Speech Month.



Our Adult ArkSHA Ambassador is **Robert Stewart**. Robert completed his undergraduate degree in communication sciences and disorders at Harding University and is currently a speech-language pathology graduate student in his second year at Harding. Robert was a client at the Harding University Speech Clinic for four semesters for treatment of his stuttering. Robert often shares of his experiences as a person who stutters through social media



Our Child ArkSHA Ambassador is **Wyatt Richards**. Wyatt is a 6-year old boy who was diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder just short of his 4th birthday. He started speech therapy at 3-years of age with a 4-word spoken vocabulary, frequently grunting, babbling and crying to express himself. Over the past two years Wyatt's progress in speech therapy has been nothing short of amazing. He is now able to carry on conversations during which he

and a blog, allowing a glimpse into his life in order to both educate and advocate. He has presented to undergraduate students about his experiences with a fluency disorder, lead devotionals on and off campus, and participated in service opportunities in Arkansas and internationally.

can show off his charming and witty personality. Wyatt is thriving in a mainstream classroom.

EBP Corner

We at the National Center for Evidence-based Practice strive to make implementing evidence-based practice (EBP) as easy as possible for busy practicing clinicians. Although we have all studied research methods and/or statistics in grad school, many of us have stored that knowledge away into the category of “things I used to know before I took the Praxis.” To help dust off this valuable information and give you a refresher, ASHA has developed a series of resources on topics related to:

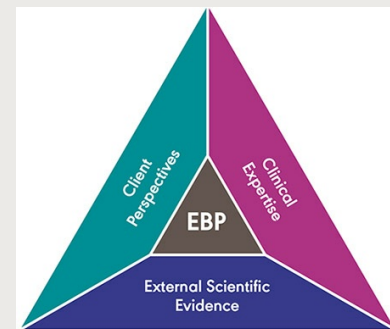
- online evidence searches,
- research design,
- bias, appraisal tools and levels of evidence, and
- statistics.

Additionally, ASHA has updated its web pages to help guide you through the entire EBP process from start to finish. Even though we know we need to implement EBP, many of us don't know where to start. Sometimes we turn to social media groups, Google searches, or even outdated notes from graduate school (guilty!). There is so much information that it makes it even harder to find recent, high-quality research that's applicable to your clients. It doesn't help that so many products and professional development courses use EBP as the “buzzword” for legitimacy. While some people use EBP as an adjective (“EBP approaches for language”), EBP is more nuanced than yes-or-no, in-or-out criteria.

In fact, EBP refers to the entire dynamic, ongoing, process of defining a clinical question, gathering evidence, assessing that evidence and incorporating it all into a clinical decision. With this process you consider external scientific evidence, clinical expertise, client perspective, and the internal data that you gather on a patient or client. You can use this process to make clinical decisions on any clinical question you come across and can feel confident that you are truly implementing EBP to achieve the best outcomes for your patients/clients without wasting time on interventions that don't work.

Understand the process and give it a test run with your own clinical question at <https://www.asha.org/Research/EBP/>.

Rebecca Bowen M.A., CCC-SLP is a clinical research associate at ASHA's



Message from your President-Elect

Rachel Glade, PhD, CCC-SLP, LSLA, Cert. AVT

Teamwork makes the Dream Work!

Honored, determined, and motivated are three words I would use to describe my feelings about beginning my term as ArkSHA President. Our association has a strong history of advocacy for the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology and we plan to continue to appreciate and learn from the efforts of the past as we move forward.

"People who are truly strong lift others up. People who are truly powerful bring others together." - Michelle Obama

As evidenced by ArkSHA's efforts with initiatives such as "Member of the Moment" and our new social media sites (Twitter (@ARSpeechHearing) and Instagram (ARSpeechHearing)), we plan to move forward highlighting the work of our members and professions. Please spread the word that you do not have to be a member of ArkSHA to like and follow our new Facebook page (Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association) which has already accumulated over 600 followers since April 2019. In the month of October alone this year, our page had over 700 engagements and reached nearly 2000 viewers. We are providing information and education about our professions like never before. We want to keep this positive momentum going, so please help us by sharing the page as well as liking, following, and sharing posts. We know that we are stronger together. We want to continue working together to advocate not only for our professions, but also for the individuals we serve. If you have considered serving on the ArkSHA Board or a committee, please email arksha@arksha.org. Join the team. We have multiple opportunities for members to serve on committees and sub-committees this year (there are plenty of opportunities for students too), so please do not hesitate to get involved. We want to lift one another up and work together to produce positive outcomes for the individuals we serve, to make progress in our state, and to parallel the advocacy efforts of ASHA so that our state can be well-represented in efforts to impact public policy for our professions. I sincerely look forward to serving this organization and our members in the capacity of President in 2020.

Member of the Moment

Professional

Kristy Brown, MS, CCC-SLP

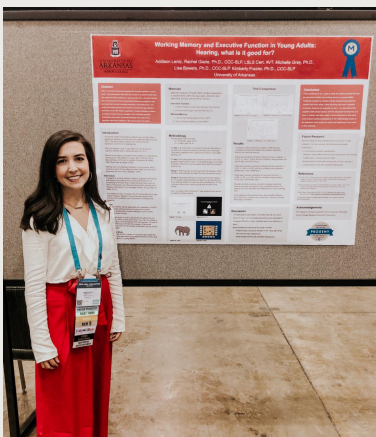
Nominated by: Rachel Glade



Kristy is co-owner of Arkansas Regional Therapy Services (ARTS), a private practice in northwest Arkansas. Kristy graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Masters of Science in Communication Disorders in 1999. She is trained in Floortime, Orton Gillingham, Lindamood Bell, rehabilitation for the hearing impaired, and is also trained in Beckman Oral Motor Program and Social Thinking. Kristy's scope of practice includes: auditory processing, phonological processing (reading)/dyslexia, written language, severe language disorders, and early intervention. ABA techniques, Floortime

techniques, PECS, and sign language are used in therapy to increase communication skills. Kristy consults with parents and childcare providers on providing an optimal classroom for children with special needs or behaviors needing to be addressed.

Student



Addison Lentz, University of Arkansas

Addison is an undergraduate student at the University of Arkansas. She has served as an assistant for the College of Education and Health Professions for the past year, is an Accelerate Student Achievement Program mentor, is an Honors student and is actively involved in the community. Most recently, her Honors research received a "Meritorious Distinction" for a poster presentation at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention in Orlando, FL. We know that the

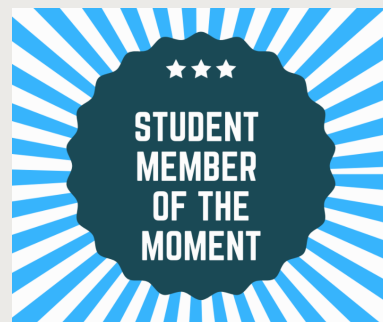
future of speech-language pathology is bright because students like Addison are on the way.



Nominate Today!

Want to nominate a student or professional member of the moment?

Select the image to the side to be taken to the nomination form.



Nominate Today!

ArkSHA Mission Statement

Connecting, learning and communicating with audiologists, speech-language pathologists, future professionals and consumers through:
Advocacy
Education
Mentoring

Connect with us



