



# COMMUNICATION CONNECTION

A quarterly publication of the Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

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## President's Message

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

To our Accomplished ArkSHA Members,

Without question, 2020 will be a year none of us are soon to forget. Despite the COVID chaos, 2020 has provided gems of opportunity and growth. We have persevered through finding unique ways to generate therapy materials, all while navigating the world of telepractice. Your ArkSHA Board has been hard at work this year as well.

### 2020 ArkSHA Accomplishments:

1. Successfully advocated to have the IQ Requirement removed from the Medicaid Manual
2. Successfully hosted our first VIRTUAL ArkSHA Convention
3. Reviewed and updated the ArkSHA bylaws
4. Reviewed and updated the ArkSHA 'Policies and Procedures' manual
5. Reviewed and updated the ArkSHA strategic plan (and added a plan to include annual tracking of progress)
6. Updated the ArkSHA website to facilitate transparency with members (added bylaws, strategic plan, and several informative pages and links)
7. Added 3 member benefits through professional development discounts
8. Introduced the "Gift to Grad" program as a student member benefit
9. Recognized 4 outstanding members as ArkSHA Professional Members of the Moment
10. Recognized 4 outstanding students as ArkSHA Student Members of the Moment
11. Provided letter of ArkSHA's support for the Audiology-Speech-Language Pathology-Interstate Compact bill

[READ MORE]

# 2020 ArkSHA Board of Directors

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University of Arkansas

**President-Elect**  
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## Connect with ArkSHA on Social Media!



Be sure to use #ArkSHA when connecting with us!

Check out our website, [www.arksha.org](http://www.arksha.org), where we will continue to make updates.



A very special thanks goes out to the following board members, for their significant contribution and commitment to ArkSHA, and dedication to the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology in the state of Arkansas.



**LeeAnn Griffith**  
ArkSHA Past President  
2018-2020



**Rachel Glade**  
ArkSHA President  
2019-2021



**Aletha Cook**  
ArkSHA VP for Continuing Ed.  
2019-2020

# RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ArkSHA is stronger with you!



## Congrats to the members of the 2021 ArkSHA Board

President - Aleecia Starkey

President-Elect - Amy Faith

Immediate Past President - Rachel Glade

Secretary - Shayla McCullough

Treasurer- Kelli Watts

VP of SLP: Shelly Keller

VP of Audiology: Charia Hall

VP for Continuing Education: Miriam Stafford

VP Elect for Continuing Education: Danni Welch

## ArkSHA 2020 Awards



# Paula J. Gober Public Schools Award



**Amy Faith, Ed S, CCC-SLP**  
**2020 Recipient**



This distinguished award signifies exemplary clinical service, outstanding commitment, and specific contributions to the delivery of speech-language pathology services in a school setting.



## 2020 ArkSHA Ambassadors



**Mark Webb**  
Adult Ambassador  
Little Rock, AR

"Mark is the definition of defying the odds."  
~A. Webber  
(submitted nomination)

"I am a better clinician because of my time with MW."  
~J. Mann



**Brady Burford**  
Child Ambassador  
Crossett, AR

"Brady's perseverance, gentle heart, kindness, and never-give-up attitude make him a shining example of what success can be achieved with proper speech and audiological management."  
~H. Burford  
(submitted nomination)

## This is my "grown up Christmas list"

~ Donna Fisher Smiley, PhD, CCC-A  
ArkSHA VP for Audiology, 2020

As we approach the holiday season, I am reminded of growing up and celebrating Christmas with my family. I always had a pretty long Christmas wish list. The older that I have gotten, the shorter that the list has become AND the list has included fewer material possessions. This year I was thinking about what is on my "wish list" professionally. I thought I would share it because it involves you - my audiologist and speech-language pathologist friends. Stick with me here...

Needless to say, as an audiologist, I think hearing is an incredibly important

sense. I have truly come to appreciate the various “seasons” of hearing. By this I mean, I have come to appreciate that hearing sensitivity in infancy and early childhood is extremely important from the language development perspective. In school-age children, hearing sensitivity is extremely important from the learning perspective. During the teen years and young adulthood, hearing sensitivity is extremely important from a socialization perspective. Then in adulthood through our “golden years,” hearing sensitivity is so very important for maintaining cognitive function and connectivity. So, keeping these stages of life in mind, it is my grownup Christmas wish that whenever we professionals in speech, language, and hearing are evaluating a person’s communication abilities, we always consider the hearing abilities and auditory functions of that person. If a child’s language abilities are being evaluated, or if an octogenarian’s swallowing and cognition are being assessed, my wish is that the professional seeing that person thinks, “I wonder how well my client is hearing what I’m saying,” and then says, “I should perform a quick hearing screening to ensure my client is capable of participating in this evaluation as well as possible.”

Also, on my grown-up Christmas wish list is the desire to see these same professionals consider the communication abilities of our patients who may have perfectly normal or typical hearing sensitivity. We all need to remember that we see clients of all ages who may struggle with communication capabilities as a result of a neurogenic disorder, genetic syndrome, or traumatic injury. We are speech, language, AND hearing professionals, so my wish is that we all always consider the other perspective and continue to value the other senses involved in this important world of communication.

#### References and resources:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (n.d.). **Adult Hearing Screening (Practice Portal)**. Retrieved December 11, 2020 from [www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Adult-Hearing-Screening/](http://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Adult-Hearing-Screening/).

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American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2004). **Preferred Practice Patterns for the Profession of Speech-Language Pathology [Preferred Practice Patterns]**. Available from [www.asha.org/policy](http://www.asha.org/policy).

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Foster D., & Thompson, L. (1990). *Grown up Christmas list* [recorded by Natalie Cole]. *On River of Love* [Album]. New York, NY: Atlantic.

**Donate to ArkSHA**

## Betty Bass Graduate Student Scholarship

Renamed in memory of Betty Bass in October 2017, the **Betty Bass Graduate Student Scholarship** is given to individuals enrolled in a Communication Sciences and Disorders graduate program in the state of Arkansas. Donations from our members allow us to offer this each year. This is separate from the ArkSHA Charitable Fund.

Donate to Scholarship Fund

## ArkSHA Charitable Fund

In December of 2019, the ArkSHA board started the 'ArkSHA Charitable Fund' with the Arkansas Community Foundation to provide our members and supporters with a tax-deductible way to support ArkSHA's initiatives. This will allow ArkSHA to provide funds for educational/research purposes to a selected 501(c)3 as requested and the board sees fit.

Donate to Charitable Fund

## Member of the Moment

### Professional



**Kelsey Sutton, MS, CCC-SLP**

Kelsey Sutton deserves a big virtual high five! With very little notice, she shifted to full-time teletherapist this year and has excelled in every way! Kelsey has not only worked tirelessly to meet the needs of a full caseload of virtual students, she has supported our entire department this school year. Kelsey can be counted on to mentor other SLPs with teletherapy and technology questions, provide resources to others, and tackle the complex communication needs of her students through creative and innovative means. Rogers

Public Schools appreciates Kelsey's contributions!

### Student



**Braxton Barber**

*-Graduate student at the University of Central Arkansas*

Braxton is a first-year graduate student at UCA, where he completed his undergraduate degree. Braxton has always been an excellent student, well respected and liked by both faculty and fellow students. Braxton experienced a significant loss this past year, yet showed his maturity in how he handled this life-changing event. He navigated his many responsibilities

honestly and professionally, in a way that most students would not have been able to manage. Just this past month, Braxton, with the help of his father's business, Southern Tees, created a UCA CSD merchandising page to allow supporters of UCA CSD to purchase apparel, cups, etc. In addition, they are donating a portion of the proceeds back to the department to be earmarked for student needs such as travel to conferences to disseminate research. His generosity will help CSD students for years to come. Braxton graduated from Vilonia High School in Vilonia, Arkansas. He enjoys being outdoors, hunting, and spending time with his beautiful new wife, Mindy. The faculty in UCA CSD know Braxton will be a difference-maker in our field; he already is here at UCA.



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!

INTRODUCING  
**ArkSHA's Gift-to-Grad**

PROGRAM

GRADUATE STUDENTS THAT HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF ARKSHA FOR 2 YEARS WILL RECEIVE THEIR FIRST YEAR AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF ARKSHA FOR **FREE**. STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THEIR 2ND YEAR OF GRADUATE SCHOOL WILL BE GRANDFATHERED IN & ONLY REQUIRE 1 YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP PRIOR TO JOINING AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER.

**ASU  
HARDING  
OUACHITA**



**UCA  
UA  
UAMS**

ArkSHA Member selected for  
ASHA 2020 Awards of Excellence





CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION  
FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS  
IN PRESCHOOL-GRADE 12  
EDUCATION SETTINGS

## KAMELA MISTI ROWLAND

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HIGH SCHOOL**

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**SPEECHPATHOLOGY.COM**  
+ save 10%!

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**Join Now**



### ArkSHA Mission Statement

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

Advocacy  
Education  
Mentoring  
Networking  
Resources

Connect with  
us

