



Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

SOUND EXPRESSIONS

Vol. 19, Issue 2



President's Message

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

Hello Accomplished ArkSHA Members!
The past few months have been a roller coaster of challenges and successes. We have proven ourselves to be resilient and willing to adapt as well as determined to advocate for the individuals we serve and our fellow colleagues. We are proud of you!

Perhaps Maya Angelou said it best: "Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better."

ArkSHA has been committed to consistent communication with members as well as providing educational opportunities. We opened our social media platforms to the public in the fall of 2019 and recently reached over 1,000 followers! Thank you for liking and sharing our posts to spread the word about speech-language pathology and audiology. Please continue to support our posts and be sure to tag #arksha in posts or send posts you would like to share with us.

In March, when COVID first hit our state, ArkSHA provided members with letters outlining up-to-date information for the provision of services. Additionally, our website was updated with links and resources relevant for the changing climate. In March, April, and May, we had representatives at meetings to advocate for providers and families with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) as well as the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS). In April, we hosted the first "ArkSHA State of Affairs Webinar" that was offered for ASHA CEU credit and will soon be available as a recorded webinar as well. In May, ArkSHA members approved changes to the organization bylaws that included adding a formal anti-discrimination policy, restructuring the document for clarity and establishing a guideline for the handling of documentation and paperwork by the organization. Also in May, ArkSHA consistently advocated for maintaining the provisional license, for simplifying the supervision process for SLP-A supervisors and for easing potentially restrictive language in the provision of telepractice in our state's rules and regulations with the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA). ArkSHA will continue to advocate for

these important issues and has committed to making sure an ArkSHA representative is present at all ABESPA meetings in the future. The Convention Committee, led by Aletha Cook, has been hard at work to identify the safest way to provide professional development, networking opportunities, and community through the convention this fall. All this to say, ArkSHA leadership has been hard at work not only to improve as an organization, but also to better serve you and the individuals we serve each day.

Most recently, addressing disparities and microaggressions in the workplace and beyond have come to forefront of the minds and hearts of members and colleagues. In addition to the anti-discrimination policy established this year in the bylaws, ArkSHA supports ASHA's recommendations to **identify and self-assess bias** as well as ASHA's **response to racism position statement**. ArkSHA condemns systemic racism and oppression and will work to continue to establish policies and practices that promote diversity and inclusion. ArkSHA is committed to identifying meaningful solutions to make progress so that all members and colleagues will know they are valued, their concerns are heard, they are supported by our community of colleagues, and there is a renewed effort by our organization to create an anti-racist environment. It has been an honor to serve as your president during this time. I continue to be proud not only to be an ArkSHA member, but to have an opportunity to work alongside some of the best audiologists and speech-language pathologists in the country.

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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, where we will continue to make updates.

2020 Deadlines

Spotlight a colleague/mentor/professional by nominating them!



Deadline August 1

Honors & Awards Nominations

submit nomination online at www.arksha.org or email arksha@arksha.org



Who have you helped to make significant gains in therapy? Nominate an individual that has inspired you as a professional!



Deadline August 1

Poster Ambassador

submit nomination online at www.arksha.org or email arksha@arksha.org



Serve Your Association!

ArkSHA is currently accepting nominations for the Board of Directors.

The call for nominations closes August 1

Email arksha@arksha.org if you are interested in serving.

2020 Convention: Sharpen Your Skills SURVEY October 14-16

Due to Covid-19, there is uncertainty regarding the 2020 ArkSHA Convention. We would like input from members to determine your preferences for the convention. Please know that the Convention Committee has been working diligently to develop multiple options as a contingency plan already. Please take a few moments to complete the [survey here](#). Your feedback is important to us.

Confirmed topics for 2020 will include:

- Autism
- Adult swallowing and language disorders
- Aural rehabilitation



- AAC intervention and best practice
- Articulation intervention (especially for the /r/ sound)
- Supervision
- Ethics and Telepractice

To mask or not to mask? That is the question (or is it?)

~ Donna Fisher Smiley, Ph.D., CCC-A
ArkSHA VP for Audiology

“To mask or not to mask?” During this time of COVID-19, the answer to that specific question is probably “YES” in your workplace. In addition to handwashing, and physical distancing, the **Arkansas Department of Health** (as well as the **CDC**) recommends wearing a face covering in public especially when we can't maintain a distance of 6 feet from others.



The bigger question for most audiologists and speech-language pathologists is, “How do we provide a clear, audible speech signal to our patients/students, while following the recommendations of our public health officials during this pandemic?” Regular surgical face masks as well as cloth face masks will degrade the speech signal by diminishing the intensity of the speech as well as by eliminating some nonverbal facial cues and making it difficult for the patient/student to use lipreading to augment their understanding.

First and foremost, you should follow the recommendations being made by your specific workplace, but here are some alternatives to the standard face masks and ways to improve the speech signal when using a standard face mask. You may need to educate your employer and patients/students on how these alternatives and options. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Harding To Offer Bachelor's Degree for SLPAs

Communication Sciences & Disorders at Harding University is excited to announce a new bachelor's degree program beginning in Fall 2020 that will specifically train students to be well-qualified speech-language



pathology assistants (SLPAs). We feel that well-trained SLPAs are part of the support system allowing SLPs to work at the top of their license. Well-trained SLPAs can truly work as extenders of the SLP, allowing services to be delivered to more individuals who need them and allowing the SLP to extend their reach into other areas of service delivery. Students in this program will take many classes found in the existing CSD curriculum but will also take coursework specific to the scope of practice for SLPAs, role of the SLPA in the school, screening and data collection, and a course in AAC. Additionally, students will complete fieldwork courses where they

earn the 100 hours of clinical experience required for Arkansas licensure. Our enrollment target is 15 students. We would encourage qualified students who have an associate's degree to apply to the program and complete the SLPA requirements in two years, earning a Bachelor of Arts. We expect that graduates will be prepared to pass the new SLPA certification exam which is being launched by ASHA at the end of this year and obtain this new national certification.

Harding will be looking for CCC-SLPs to partner with us in supervision of these students. If you would be interested in working with us to provide clinical supervision, please contact Harding's externship coordinator, Tim Chance, MS, CCC-SLP at tchance@harding.edu

University of Arkansas Introduces First Post-Masters Online Certificate for SLPs This Fall

The University of Arkansas introduces first Post-Master's ONLINE Certificate for Speech-Language Pathologists this Fall!



Speech-language pathologists in K-12 schools or who work with school-age children can advance their careers and update skills by enrolling in the nation's first post-master's certificate program designed specifically for school-based speech-language pathologists. Professionals will gain graduate-level coursework hours that some school districts recognize when awarding pay increases beyond merit or experience. Professionals are encouraged to contact their Human Resources representative to inquire about how additional graduate credit could result in advancement on the pay scale. By enhancing clinical skills, professionals will improve the quality of speech-language therapy services that are provided to your students. Coursework can also be counted toward professional development hours. The full certificate provides professionals with 15 hours of graduate-level credit. The university's Online Programs website has further [details on the program](#). Interested professionals are encouraged to email online@uark.edu with questions as well.

There is availability to take individual courses for professional development without committing to the full certificate as well. Enrollment is limited and seats have already been filling, so interested students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

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 grant funds for educational/research purposes as requested and the board sees fit.

This fund is not going to replace the Betty Bass Scholarship Fund at this time. We would still like to encourage members to donate to ArkSHA directly so that we can continue to give out a \$1000 student scholarship each year.



Donate to the Charitable Fund Now

Member of the Moment

Professional



[Megan Fraser, MS, CCC-SLP](#)
Nominated by: Rachel Glade

Megan Fraser, M.S., CCC-SLP, is a graduate of the University of Arkansas. Her first role was to launch the Early Childhood Program with Bentonville Public Schools, where she served the preschool population for three years. During that time, Megan became certified with the National Health Service and Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists in the UK, and chased a dream to England. Upon return, Megan was hired with Springdale Public Schools, where she has been for the past 10 years. She participated in the standardization of the GFTA-3 and been a clinical supervisor for several graduate students. In 2018, Megan was one the SLPs selected to pilot the 3:1 flexible service delivery model for Springdale, which proved immensely successful. She was one of four 'in the trenches' participants who presented at the 2019 ArkSHA Convention to a packed house that was met with overwhelmingly positive feedback. Megan was recently honored as the University of Arkansas' 2020 Faculty Mentor of the Year for the Communication Sciences & Disorders Program for outstanding mentorship & leadership. She enjoys helping students and other speech pathologists while continuing to practice in the largest district in the state. Megan lives in Lowell with her British husband and two small children, whom she is constantly assessing.

Student

[Anna Caroline \(AC\) Strickland, 2nd year graduate](#)



student at Harding University

Nominated by: Melanie Meeker

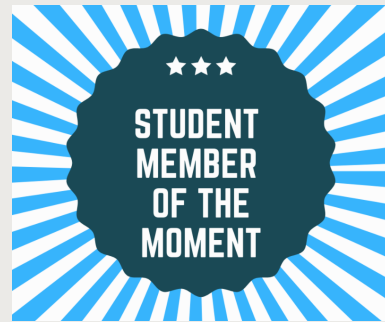
Anna Caroline (AC) Strickland is a joy to have in our program. She has a quick wit and a big smile and is a constant encouragement to her peers. We all know that graduate school is a challenge, but AC meets every challenge with a big smile on her face and a joyful spirit. AC has cerebral palsy which poses some physical challenges that her peers don't face, but no one ever hears her complain. We know that AC will be an excellent addition to the profession of speech-language pathology. Her personal experience in overcoming challenges will give her credibility and authenticity when working with others who are overcoming challenges of their own.



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!

Sharpen Your Skills

SAVE THE DATE

ArkSHA Annual Convention

📍 Embassy Suites Little Rock

📅 October 14 • 15 • 16 2020



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

