



# COMMUNICATION CONNECTION

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

Vol. 21, Issue 2



## President's Message

Aleecia Starkey, MSP, CCC-SLP, CBIS

As I have interacted with school-based speech-language pathologists, audiologists, speech-language assistants, teachers, and education administrators, almost to any person, they have expressed that the past school year has been one of the most difficult and challenging of their careers. Most expressed sadness for the loss of personal contact with their students and the limited contact with other professionals. Many of the speech-language pathologists have been sympathetic to the needs of the students and felt sadness when the students were not able to be in therapy in person. The audiologists have expressed some of the difficulties experienced by the students with hearing impairments. Audiologists have also expressed concerns about the lack of hearing screenings and the poor sound quality experienced by virtual students, especially the lower grades during phonics and phonemic awareness lessons.

The speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the hospital settings have expressed they have experienced life-changing events as they have been interacting with their patients in person. One hospital speech-language pathologist said just "suiting up" to see the patients was so time-consuming that she could only see a limited number of patients each day and that caused stress in and of itself. I do not think there is any graduate program for speech-language pathology or audiology that has courses in grief at the level we have seen grieving this past fifteen months.

As our nation and the world are recovering from the pandemic and all its horrors, I want those in our professions to have hope that the worst is behind us and that the future will be better. November is typically when we celebrate Thanksgiving, but I would suggest that we begin our Thanksgiving celebration now, in June! I will celebrate the courage, fortitude, and resilience demonstrated by each of you throughout the last fifteen months!

# 2021 ArkSHA Board of Directors

**President**  
Aleecia Starkey  
Retired

**President-Elect**  
Amy Faith  
Rogers Public Schools

**Treasurer**  
Kelli Watts  
Baptist Health Rehab

**Secretary**  
Shayla McCullough  
Little Rock School  
District

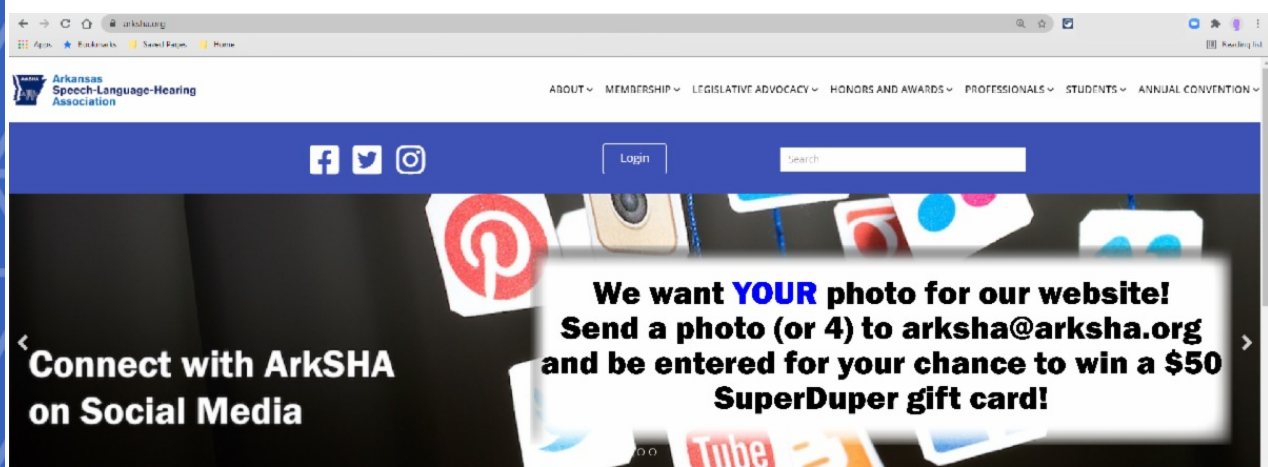
**Vice President for CE**  
Miriam Stafford  
AR Children's Hospital  
NWA

**Vice President-Elect for  
CE**  
Danni Welch  
Mobile FEES of NWA

**VP for Speech  
Pathology**  
Shelly Keller  
Miracle Kids Success  
Academy

**VP for Audiology &  
Hearing**  
Charia Hall  
UAMS

**Immediate Past  
President**  
Rachel Glade  
University of Arkansas



The screenshot shows the ArkSHA website with a navigation menu including ABOUT, MEMBERSHIP, LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY, HONORS AND AWARDS, PROFESSIONALS, STUDENTS, and ANNUAL CONVENTION. Below the navigation is a social media bar with icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, a Login button, and a search bar. A large banner features social media icons (Pinterest, YouTube, etc.) and a central text box that reads: "We want **YOUR** photo for our website! Send a photo (or 4) to [arksha@arksha.org](mailto:arksha@arksha.org) and be entered for your chance to win a \$50 SuperDuper gift card!" To the left of the banner, it says "Connect with ArkSHA on Social Media".

## Serve Your Association!

ArkSHA is currently accepting nominations for the  
Board of Directors:

- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- VP-Elect for Continuing Education
- VP for SLP Services



*Email nomination or statement of interest to [arksha@arksha.org](mailto:arksha@arksha.org) by July 15.*

*Submit your board nomination here!*



CONVENTION 2021  
October 13-15

# REACHING OUT: *Connecting with your Caseload*

After a wonderful virtual convention in 2020, we are officially BACK, in-person in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the Embassy Suites! Our theme this year is Reaching Out: Connecting with your Caseload. We are planning the convention around the ideas of diversity & inclusion, collaborating with colleagues, and connecting with lower-incidence populations on your caseloads. Over the past year, we have all experienced how important it is to stay connected and get creative in collaborations. We have a variety of presenters from different disciplines and are pulling from knowledge both in-state and across the country! We are also planning to bring back the social (!), continue with the popular materials swap for students, and have several other surprises in store. We look forward to reconnecting with you all and hope you plan to attend this year's convention!

*Miriam Stafford, MS, CCC-SLP, LSLs, Cert. AVT  
VP for Continuing Education*

## A few featured speakers for the 2021 Annual Convention



Brenda  
Gorman



Lindy Powell



Valarie  
Fleming



Tiffany Turner



Greg  
Robinson

For a FULL speaker line-up on Wednesday and Thursday, check the website at [www.arksha.org/conventions](http://www.arksha.org/conventions)

*Friday speakers will be announced soon.*

## EXHIBITORS REGISTER HERE

### ArkSHA Honors & Awards

Honors of the Association  
ArkSHA Public Schools Award  
Award for Clinical Achievement

### ArkSHA Poster Ambassador

Whom have you helped to make  
significant gains in therapy?

Clinical Career Award  
Research Award  
Audiology Award  
Medical Award

Nominate an individual that has  
inspired you as a professional!

Child or Adult!



Deadline July 15

## *Honors & Awards Nominations*

*submit nomination online at [www.arksha.org](http://www.arksha.org) or  
email [arksha@arksha.org](mailto:arksha@arksha.org)*



Deadline July 15

## *Poster Ambassador*

*submit nomination online at [www.arksha.org](http://www.arksha.org) or  
email [arksha@arksha.org](mailto:arksha@arksha.org)*



## 5 Tips for Healthy Ears & Hearing This Summer

By Charia Hall, Au.D., CCC-A

Warmer weather is upon us, COVID restrictions are lifting, and everyone is itching to get out and enjoy the summer! Here are a few quick tips to protect your ears and keep them healthy as you enjoy all your summer activities.



1. **PREVENT SWIMMER'S EAR:** There's probably no activity that screams summer more than swimming! It's one of the best activities for keeping cool in the hot summer months, but it can leave you more susceptible to swimmer's ear. Swimmer's ear occurs when water or moisture gets trapped in the ear canal and creates the perfect environment for bacteria to grow, which can lead to a painful ear infection. The best way to prevent swimmer's ear is to make sure you keep your ears dry by properly drying them once you get out of the water or by wearing a swimming cap that covers your ears or ear protection (such as custom swim plugs from an audiologist).
2. **PROTECT YOUR EARS FROM LOUD NOISES:** Got summer concerts or firework displays on your summer activity list? Make sure that in addition to your water, snacks, and sunscreen you've got earplugs in your bag! A hearing loss caused by noise exposure can be irreversible, but it's 100% preventable with ear protection or limiting your time in loud environments. If you're concerned about missing out on the experience when wearing earplugs, you can use a pair of filtered earplugs instead. You'll still hear everything that's going on but at a safe listening level.
3. **PREVENT EAR IRRITATION:** Outdoor fun can mean a high probability of dirt, dust, or sand getting into your ears! We always advise never sticking anything into your ears, but especially don't dig at or use a

Q-tip to clean debris out of your ears because you can cause irritation or abrasion to the delicate skin of the ear canal. Earwax is the ear's natural cleaner, it will catch and clear out any debris that gets in there.

4. **PROTECT YOUR HEARING AIDS:** Most hearing aids or amplification devices are not waterproof, although many newer devices are more water-resistant than in the past, you still want to protect them from moisture and humidity. The best way to remove moisture and humidity is by using a dehumidifier designed for amplification devices regularly during the hot summer month. Routine checks and maintenance of your devices, done at home or at your audiologist's office, are also a good idea to make sure they continue to perform optimally to give you the best sound quality possible.
5. **SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP IF NEEDED:** A little water, sand, or dirt in your ears shouldn't cause pain. If you're experiencing itchy, irritated, or painful ears you should follow up with your physician to ensure you keep your ears healthy!

## 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



In conjunction with Better Hearing and Speech Month in May ArkSHA held its 1st annual Give \$5 Campaign to raise money for the Betty Bass Scholarship

and the ArkSHA Charitable Fund.

We are happy to announce that thanks to the generous donors that participated we raised \$510! These funds will be used for the Betty Bass Scholarship and the ArkSHA Charitable Fund, both of which will help fund scholarships for students pursuing a degree in speech-language pathology

or audiology.

The winner of the Give \$5 prize basket was Jeff Adams!

Congratulations to Jeff and thank you to everyone that donated!

## 2021/2022 License Renewal Period

Renewal Period: May 1 - July 15

Visit [www.abespa.com](http://www.abespa.com) to renew your license & report continuing education. If renewing online, be sure to download the required forms.

Include the Content Area & the Subcategory, and allow 2-3 weeks for processing. *There is no extension this year for COVID.*



Arkansas Board  
of Examiners

Speech-Language  
Pathology and Audiology

## Member of the Moment

### Student



Angela Anderson  
*-Graduate student at UAMS*

Angela is a dedicated student that has shown professionalism and class in every situation. She is a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) trainee and with that, has had the opportunity to visit a variety of interdisciplinary clinics. Angela contributes to every clinic she participates in and is a thoughtful and empathetic clinician. She also

has been one of the leaders in helping start a state affiliate for the National Black Association of Speech-Language and Hearing Professionals (NBASLH).

### Student



Kacy Willard  
*-Graduate student at U of A*

Kacy just finished up her first year in the graduate program at the University of Arkansas. She has been a light in our program from day 1. She has consistently sought opportunities to gain clinical experience (even if it meant sacrificing her personal time) and has received outstanding evaluations and reports from faculty and off-campus supervisors. Kacy is a hard worker who is going to be an awesome SLP in the future. We would like to recognize

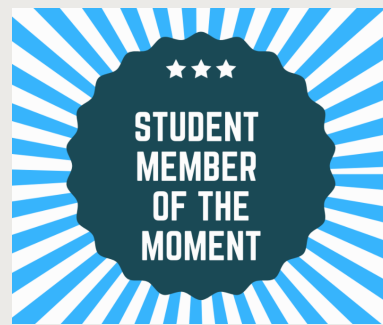
Kacy for all her hard work by nominating her for this award.



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!

## Surveys and Job Opportunities

Gravette School District is looking for candidates that are interested in innovating, teaming, and being part of the change that is occurring in how our student needs are being met. Questions? Contact Vickie Johnston, Director of Special Education, at 479-414-4788 or [vickie.johnston@gravetteschools.net](mailto:vickie.johnston@gravetteschools.net) [View Job Listing]

Russellville School District has two speech-language pathologist positions open. [View Job Listing]

Survey link: [https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4YPjgZH4YhsACAS](https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4YPjgZH4YhsACAS)  
CSD Faculty, CSD Clinical Supervisors, and School-based SLPs are invited to participate in a survey for graduate education in written language. The survey was approved through FSU's IRB. All participants are eligible to win an Amazon gift card. Please email [ssummy@fsu.edu](mailto:ssummy@fsu.edu) if you have any questions. Student: Rebecca Summy, a current doctoral student at Florida State University

### 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.

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**



**ArkSHA**

**UCA  
UA  
UAMS**



**Join**

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

~~\$99~~ **\$89**

Promo Code: **ARKSHA**

**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

