NYSSLHA 2017 Convention
The Effectiveness of CAAST: A 10-Week Study
As you can see, there are major changes to the look and feel of NYSSLHA. We would like to tell you why and what these changes mean to you.

Over the years, NYSSLHA has been the premier organization for speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the state of New York. New Yorkers have always been looked at as being bold, strong and on the cutting edge. Therefore, we have changed how you and the rest of the world view NYSSLHA. Our website has been updated with a sleek new look and easy navigational tools, and our new logo encompasses the strength and boldness we are known for.

Most importantly, we have listened to what our members and potential members are telling us. You have spoken and we have listened. NYSSLHA knows how important managing your finances is to you. That’s why as part of our re-branding, we have made some significant changes in terms of our membership dues and Convention fees.

Starting this upcoming 2017 membership year, we have not only decreased our membership dues, we are also adding a two year discounted membership option. This option will allow you to pay a discounted rate and have your membership covered for two years.

And we haven’t stopped there. Because you have told us how significant continuing education is to you, we are also decreasing our Convention fees for our membership by 31%. That’s a $100.00 difference from previous years.

NYSSLHA values its membership and we hope you will take full advantage of these discounts and continue to support us in our mutual effort to provide the quality benefits you need and expect from our association.

Thank you for your loyalty and we hope to see you at the 2017 NYSSLHA Convention, April 20-22, 2017 in Saratoga Springs!
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Dear NYSSLHA members:

The changing of the calendar to a new year is a time of self-examination. We reflect on the past and look to the future. We ask ourselves what has been successful and what needs to change. We also engage in conversations with others about how they view us and what they feel are our strengths and weaknesses. Over the past few months, your NYSSLHA Board of Directors has done just that, and we are delighted to reveal our dynamic new logo and website, along with some exciting news about reductions in our dues structure and Convention registration fees. Our “You Talked, We Listened” initiative is the result of the Board’s careful consideration of the mission, vision, values of the Association and the opinions expressed by our members. We have taken on a vibrant new look and developed an energetic plan to increase our membership and implement our recently updated strategic plan, all with the goal of strongly representing the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology and the individuals we serve.

It is my great honor to serve as the 2017 NYSSLHA president at this pivotal time. I follow a long line of truly remarkable people in this position and I hope to be able to continue their outstanding examples. I am grateful to our immediate past-president, Yula Serpanos, and our Governmental Affairs chairperson, Joe Sonnenberg, for their leadership and hard work. I am also grateful to our Board of Directors; to our management firm, Craven Management Associates; to our lobbyists, Reid, McNally and Savage; and to the many people who serve faithfully on our various task forces and committees to advocate for and support our professions and those with communication and swallowing disorders. You are the heart of the Association. If you are someone who has not been involved in the past, I urge you to contact me or any member of the Board about serving on a committee or running for office. I promise that you will find it rewarding!

One of the highlights of serving as president is welcoming members to the Annual Convention. NYSSLHA’s 57th Annual Convention, the theme of which is “The Future is Now: Innovation for Today” will be held in beautiful Saratoga Springs from April 20-22 and promises to be a wonderful opportunity for both professional development and social interaction. Our Convention Planning Committee, chaired by Michelle Veyvoda (program) and Barbara Kurman (operations), with the able assistance of Christine DeHart from Craven Management, has been working diligently since June to bring you a stellar program, featuring prominent speakers across a variety of specialty areas. A particular note of thanks is due to our area chairs: Sal Brienza (autism spectrum disorder), Tina Caswell (assistive technology), Mark Caffrey (audiology), Cecilia Navarra (language and literacy), Eileen Gilroy (medical), Regina Grantham (professional resources), and Jack Pickering (student resources), who have arranged an outstanding assortment of presentations, workshops and poster sessions. Of course, our exhibitors will be featuring the latest in equipment and materials, so please be sure to schedule time to visit their displays. For those arriving on Thursday, we are offering an evening session devoted to legislative issues, and small group discussions focusing on a variety of “hot-button” clinical topics. This is your opportunity to see first-hand what NYSSLHA is doing to advocate for the profession of speech-language pathology and the individuals we serve and to find out how you can take part in the effort.

I wish health and happiness to all of you in 2017, and I look forward to greeting you in Saratoga Springs in April!

Janet Schoepflin
President, NYSSLHA
schoepf@adelphi.edu
Happy New Year Everyone!

See You at the NYSSLHA Convention!

As timing would have it, I write this message during the Thanksgiving weekend and right after the Annual ASHA Convention, this year in Philadelphia. These events are full of tradition, community and gratitude. As we celebrate a new year as the NYSSLHA community and look ahead with gratitude to our Annual Convention, I hope you enjoy this issue of The Communicator, the first published by our NYSSLHA partner, Craven Management.

Let me introduce you to Amy Caye from Craven, whose role will be to support the journal’s publication. As I have learned from my prior work with Craven Management, Amy will tap into a talented team to make sure that The Communicator maintains its high quality and increasingly attractive look. Oh, and Amy is clearly flexible, as we have been coordinating the January issue during the holiday season and a busy, local ASHA Convention (as well as my poor sense of deadlines). Thanks, Amy!

As you will see, this issue highlights the 2017 NYSSLHA Convention and is designed to complement NYSSLHA’s newly designed website; isn’t the logo great? This year, you may have already noticed the significant reduction in the Convention fees and membership dues. These actions, approved by the Board of Directors, are designed to make the Association more accessible to the state’s audiologists, speech-language pathologists and students studying communication sciences and disorders. A strong, growing membership and robust Convention audience will ensure that NYSSLHA will be able to continue to provide responsive legislative advocacy and build on the continuing education activities provided during Convention.

The 2017 Annual NYSSLHA Convention will take place from April 20-22 at the Saratoga Hilton and Saratoga Springs City Center. The theme of the Convention is The Future is Now: Innovation for Today. The Program Chair is Michelle Veyvod and the Operations Chair is Barbara Kurman. Both professional leaders are included in this issue of The Communicator. As is tradition, I interviewed Michelle, which will allow you to get to know her professional interests and expertise, as well as her reasons for taking on the role of program chair. Barbara provides an important message for all of us. Share her message with those who are not yet members of NYSSLHA. We are strongest when our community reflects the many professionals providing services to the state’s children, adults and families.

The speaker lineup for Convention is once again top-notch with a great mix of well-known out-of-state experts and many of New York state’s best teachers, clinicians and researchers. You will also find another fantastic group of poster sessions representing the creative scholarly work of students and colleagues from around the state, innovation consistent with the Convention theme. Come to Saratoga ready to share in the special community that first gathered 57 years ago. If you have never been to Convention, come and be part of the exceptional network of people who gather each year to share, learn and contribute to our professions.

The Communicator would love to take part in the tradition and community. Every year, I learn new things and meet special people. I re-connect with colleagues and share in the impromptu reunion of Saint Rose graduates doing innovative things in their clinical and educational settings.

Second, let me know if you would like to contribute to your professional publication. Send your scholarly work and clinical experiences to pickerij@mail.strose.edu. There is so much clinical content to cover and an incredible wealth of expertise in New York state to fill the pages of this publication. For example, in this issue of The Communicator, you will find a paper that was presented at ASHA as a poster session. In it, Taylor Bulman and Julie Hart discuss the application of a combined therapy approach for aphasia and apraxia of speech called CAAST (Combined Aphasia and Apraxia of Speech Treatment). Please, by all means, share your work.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

Jack Pickering, PhD, CCC-SLP

Letters to the Editor

The Communicator would love to hear from you. Please send your comments, questions, or letters to the editor to:

Jack Pickering pickerij@mail.strose.edu
or
info@nysslha.org
Reid, McNally, Savage:
2016 State Election Update

By Shauneen McNally

NYS Senate
After a strong Republican showing in the State Senate - GOP candidates finished ahead in 31 districts, though recounts on Long Island could keep the exact tally unknown for weeks. Republicans gained a seat in Buffalo but one of their incumbents, freshman Senator Michael Venditto, is currently going through the recount process.

That leaves 31 Republicans, assuming Election Night results are not flipped by absentee ballots - one seat shy of the 32 votes needed to control the chamber. Republicans currently hold a governing majority by claiming Democrat Brooklyn Senator Simcha Felder as a member of their conference.

It appears that the chamber’s Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) will align itself with the Republicans. The IDC conference grew from five to seven members and has previously allied with Republicans.


NYS Assembly
The Assembly Democratic Conference slightly increased their already massive majority in the state Assembly to 107 in the 150-member body. Democrats picked up a Plattsburgh-area seat that had been held by Republicans for decades, most recently outgoing assemblywoman Janet Duprey. Franklin County legislator Billy Jones won by about four points and the party regained a traditionally Democratic seat in Buffalo left vacant by outgoing assemblywoman Angela Wozniak.

The night’s biggest surprise for the lower house came in Long Beach, where Democrats lost a seat they’ve held since 1965. The district was most recently held by Todd Kaminsky, who vacated it when he won a Senate special election in April. Republican Missy Miller, an advocate for the state’s medical marijuana law, defeated Anthony Eramo by about six points.

Only one incumbent was ousted. Assemblyman John Ceretto, who was elected to three terms as a Republican but joined the Democrats last year, was defeated by nine points by former Niagara Falls judge, Republican Angelo Morinello.

The 107-member conference gives Assembly Democrats absolute control of the occasional proceedings that require a majority of the full 213-member Legislature, such as electing regents and filling vacancies in statewide offices, at least as long as they hold on to that number.

As the Operations Chair of the 2017 NYSSLHA Convention, I would like to communicate something that is of great importance. The New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association is the ONLY state-wide association in NY that represents you, the speech-language pathologist or audiologist. That means that anything affecting your ability to practice your profession, licensure issues, competitive environments, etc., is represented by NYSSLHA and its lobbyists and political action committees. Thus if you are not supporting NYSSLHA as a member, your voice cannot be heard at the state level for your profession. Legislative actions and responses take organization and money.

Your dues go to many functions of NYSSLHA, including programming, Convention, student support and legislative interaction. Your participation in NYSSLHA, both by membership and student support, is ESSENTIAL to continue this most important work on YOUR professional behalf. This year, Convention fees have been significantly reduced. Programming includes legislative updates and roundtables that inform you of what NYSSLHA has been doing on your behalf. Student fees are reduced as well. Expert and nationally acclaimed speakers will be at the Convention to augment your professional fund of knowledge, along with many CEU opportunities.

Finally, professionally, it is our responsibility as licensed professionals to be active in the state association that represents our current, as well as our future professional needs. A strong association is paramount for our future as well as the futures of the incoming professionals. The next generations of speech-language pathologists and audiologists depends upon us to lead the way, as previous generations of professionals led the way for us. Again, NYSSLHA is the only state organization to meet your professional interests. Are you a member? Are you allowing your voice to be heard? Will you be attending this terrific 2017 Convention? Your answers should be YES! See you in Saratoga Springs.

Barbara Kurman, AuD
Operations Chair

2017 NYSSLHA
Membership Rates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Regular Member</th>
<th>Associate Member</th>
<th>New Graduate Member</th>
<th>Student Member</th>
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2017 NYSSLHA
Convention Rates

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<th>Membership Type</th>
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<th>Student Member</th>
<th>Student Non-Member</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$280</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$50</td>
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2017 Convention Highlighted Presenters

**Susan Adams, JD**
Friday, April 21
Advocating for the Professions and Yourself
Stretch Your Knowledge of Telepractice: Service Delivery, Regulation, Reimbursement

**Meher Banajee, PhD, CCC-SLP**
Friday, April 21
Integrating AAC/AT Into Different Environments

**Patricia Prelock, PhD, CCC-SLP, BRS-CL**
Saturday, April 22
Sustainable Assistive Technology Services in the Public School Setting

**Nicole Dupre, MS, CCC-SLP**
Saturday, April 22
Story-Based Interventions to Support Social Cognition in Children With ASD

**Peter Johnston, PhD**
Saturday, April 22
Classroom Talk and Children’s Learning and Development

**Joseph Murray, PhD, CCC-SLP**
Saturday, April 22
Dysphagia Management in the Frail Elder

**Tim Nanof, MSW**
Saturday, April 22
From Volume to Value: Emerging Health Policy Reimbursement Trends Federal Health Care Policy & Reimbursement Update

**David J. Smirga, MA**
Friday, April 21
The Art of Independent Practice in Today’s Corporate/Commodity Culture

2017 Convention Schedule at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday, April 20</th>
<th>Friday, April 21</th>
<th>Saturday, April 22</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Education Sessions</td>
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<td>7:00 am – 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>7:00 am – 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>8:00 am – 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Annual Breakfast Meeting</td>
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<td>Poster Sessions</td>
<td>5:30 pm – 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Education Sessions</td>
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<td>President’s Reception</td>
<td>6:00 pm – 7:00 pm</td>
<td>8:00 am – 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>Honors and Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>7:45 pm – 8:45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Praxis CUPcake Challenge</td>
<td>8:00 pm – 9:00 pm</td>
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Interview With Convention Chair Michelle Veyvoda

First, tell us about yourself professionally. What settings have you worked in and what is your clinical/research/teaching expertise?

I’ve been in the profession for 11 years. I received my master’s degree at Gallaudet University and decided while I was there that I really wanted to work with the deaf and hard of hearing population. I did my CFY at St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf in Brooklyn, and stayed there for six years – until my daughter was born. At that point, I had already been studying for my PhD in physical disabilities (emphasis on education of the deaf and hard of hearing) at Teachers College, Columbia University. So I chose to focus on finishing that degree and began doing some contract work through early intervention and at the Center for Hearing and Communication in lower Manhattan. Through those positions, I still worked with the deaf and hard of hearing population, but through listening and spoken language rather than through sign language and total communication. At this point, I’ve worked with a very well-rounded population of children with varying degrees of hearing loss, and it is still my favorite population. I’ve been working full-time at Iona College as an assistant professor for the past year, but I maintain a small clinical practice so I can link my clinical practice to research and teaching.

Can you say a little bit about your scholarship (research, presentations, and publications) in the area of aural (re)habilitation?

When I first began my PhD studies, I thought I was going to create a new, standardized and norm-referenced language assessment tool for deaf children who sign. For many reasons, that did not happen. But I became more interested in public policy and how it impacts deaf education. At the time, New York state was, like the rest of the country, going through some major economic struggles. Governor Cuomo proposed changing the funding stream for the 4,201 schools in the state – some of which are schools for the deaf. I witnessed the fear and concern that proposal elicited in the deaf education community, and I was curious about how a change in funding might impact the quality of SLP services the children in those schools would receive. Out of that curiosity, my dissertation topic was born. I traveled around the state and interviewed SLPs in local school districts, BOCES programs and schools for the deaf to find out how each of them developed their skill set for working with profoundly deaf children. What I found was that the skill set is murky and contextually based. I also found that there are a number of steps that can be taken on the policy and administrative side to ensure that deaf children continue to receive high quality services, even if schools for the deaf in New York state are reduced in number or closed altogether. I presented this at the NYSSLHA 2016 Convention, along with my colleague, an auditory-verbal therapist. We wanted to inform the professionals in New York state about the threats facing these schools while providing an in-service on best practices for serving deaf children who struggle to learn spoken language. I’m working on preparing my dissertation for publication now, but it is hard to find the time during the semester. I typically write over winter and summer vacation.

Switching gears a bit, what made you decide to take on the role of Convention chair, and how has the experience been so far?

Last year was my first time attending the NYSSLHA Convention. It was also my first year as a NYSSLHA member. I had such a great time at the Convention. I loved Saratoga: the food was great, the workshops were very interesting and I enjoyed meeting other professionals. On the last day, I told someone “official-looking” that I wanted to get more involved. Within a few days, Janet Shoepflin contacted me about possibly chairing the Convention. I went from being minimally involved to “both feet in” within a few days. But it’s been great. I’ve learned a lot, and I’m in regular contact with professionals with whom I never would have worked otherwise. The best part is – I know what’s in store at the 2017 Convention, and it’s going to be amazing! The Convention theme is The Future is Now: Innovations for Today. Can you tell us what the theme means to you and how it fits this year’s Convention?

We came up with this theme collaboratively, and it piggy-backed off last year’s theme to a great extent. I think we all felt that we had to focus on innovation because everywhere you look in this field, technology is changing, policy is changing, practices are changing, reimbursement is changing – and we need to make sure we’re keeping up with all of it. When you see the session topics, it will become very clear that our presenters are bringing cutting-edge information and some very progressive ideas to Convention attendees. For example, we have one session on the use of text messaging in therapy. Several others are being led by multiple professionals, which demonstrates how increasingly essential the team of professionals has become in diagnostics and treatment. The future of the profession is exciting and we are making sure Convention attendees will be ready for it.

For students and new professionals, what would you say to them about being involved in NYSSLHA?

For 10 years, I was a practicing SLP in New York state and was not a member of NYSSLHA. I wish I had known more about NYSSLHA earlier in my career. Better late than never! NYSSLHA is THE lobbying organization for SLPS and audiologists at the state level. All of these changes I’ve been talking about - funding changes, early intervention reimbursement, Medicare, health insurance – many of these decisions are made in Albany. NYSSLHA is our only voice in Albany, and I’m not sure too many students or new professionals are aware of that. I think it’s important for students to become acquainted with NYSSLHA early on and become invested in its success. Speaking of the future, THEY are our future. If they are not invested in NYSSLHA, who will be advocating for the profession in 10 years? NYSSLHA is aware of this, which is why registration fees have been reduced for students as well as professionals. And we have some exciting ideas in the works for scholarships and sponsoring students who wish to attend the Convention.
The Effectiveness of CAAST: A 10-Week Study

By Taylor Bulman, MS, CF-SLP; Julie Hart, MS, CCC-SLP, College of Saint Rose, Albany, NY

Taylor Bulman graduated from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY with her master's degree. She studied communication sciences and disorders throughout her graduate career. Currently, Taylor is finishing her speech-language pathology clinical fellowship at the Vista School in Hershey, Pennsylvania, working with children with autism spectrum disorder.

Julie Hart is a NYS licensed and nationally certified speech-language pathologist who has specialized in neurogenic communication disorders for the last 26 years. She has worked in acute care, acute rehabilitation, outpatient clinic and college campus clinics. She directs the TBI Services and teaches at The College of Saint Rose. Julie has always been interested in real life communication regardless of the setting. She knew people could continue to get better given a functional, client-centered approach with adequate support provided. Julie’s focus is to help people regain a life of meaning.

Introduction

A praxia of speech (AoS) and nonfluent aphasia both significantly disrupt overall communication. AoS rarely occurs in isolation and often co-occurs with nonfluent aphasia (Duffy, 2013). Although AoS and nonfluent aphasia frequently co-occur, there is limited research on a combined treatment approach.

The purpose of the present study was to investigate the effectiveness of Combined Aphasia and Apraxia of Speech Treatment (CAAST). This approach targets both AoS and nonfluent aphasia simultaneously.

The influence of this therapy approach on verbal language and speech production was examined through pre- and post-testing using the Western Aphasia Battery-Revised (WAB-R; Kertesz, 2006). Through the utilization of CAAST, this study examined changes in speech production and verbal language in an individual with AoS and nonfluent aphasia.

Method

The participant in the present study was a male in his mid-fifties who was four years post-stroke at the time of the study. He is an artist that specializes in sculpting and drawing. He was a participant in the TBI program at the College of Saint Rose.

The researchers completed pre-testing using the WAB-R (Kertesz, 2006). The WAB-R was administered and scored in the standard manner found in the examiner’s manual. This is a normed and standardized instrument that is used to assess individuals with aphasia. Also included on the WAB-R is an AoS measure, therefore this test was used prior to and after intervention.

For 10 weeks, CAAST was implemented in weekly individual sessions. The researcher followed the specific CAAST protocol developed by the founders of the treatment approach (Wambaugh, Wright, Nessler & Mauszycki, 2014). Language and speech production were targeted simultaneously through CAAST and included techniques from Response Elaboration Training (RET; Kearsns, 1985, as cited by Wambaugh et al., 2014) and Sound Production Treatment (SPT; Wambaugh, Kalinyak-Fliszar, West, & Doyle, 1998, as cited by Wambaugh et al., 2014).

Intervention

During each treatment session, the participant described 10 action pictures using Norman Rockwell photos. While the participant described these photos, CAAST was implemented. The participant’s
utterances were expanded through Response Elaboration Training and Sound Production Treatment was applied as needed.

With RET, the client produced an utterance in response to a picture stimuli and the clinician expanded through forward chaining, reinforcement and modeling (Kearns, 1985, as cited by Wambaugh et al., 2014). When SPT was needed, a response-contingent hierarchy was used with a combination of modeling, minimal pair contrast, repetition, articulatory placement cueing, integral stimulation and feedback (Wambaugh et al., 2014).

Dependent variables of this study included production of correct information units (CIUs; Nicholas & Brookshire, 1993, as cited by Wambaugh et al., 2014) in response to a picture stimulus from the WAB-R and percent consonants correct in word and sentence repetition (Kertesz, 2006).

### Results

Data collected from the pre-test, through the use of a picture scene in the WAB-R, indicated that the participant had 43 correct information units (CIUs). Results from the post-test indicated that the participant had 103 CIUs. This increase in CIUs, between pre-and post-testing, indicates a positive change resulting from the implementation of CAAST. More specifically, this change demonstrates the participant’s improvement in the relevancy, appropriateness, and information content of words used.

Percent consonants correct (PCC) in word and sentence repetition was also collected and analyzed. Using the repetition of words and sentences from the WAB-R, pre-test data indicated that the participant had 68% consonants correct within words and sentences. Results from post-test data indicated that the participant had 89% consonants correct within words and sentences. This change is approximately a 20% difference and indicates that CAAST also reduced the participant’s phonemic errors.

During both the pre- and post-testing, the participant had more difficulty with repeating sentences than repeating words. Through conversation, a change was observed in the participant’s overall intonation and pitch. Pre-test observation indicated that the participant used a very “sing-song” intonation pattern. During the post-test observation, the participant used a more appropriate intonation pattern within conversation that was consistent with the participant’s voice prior to the stroke.

Future research should provide more in-depth analyses of CAAST in relation to carryover and generalization within everyday communication contexts for individuals with AOS and nonfluent aphasia.

### References


You Spoke
We Listened