Everyday Leaders, Lifelong Learners, Major Success!

I am elated at how well the Conference went in Richmond. Our attendance was up 6.5 percent from 2016! This year’s Conference captured audiologists (AUDs) and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) from all over the state. I continue to be inspired by the number of speech-language pathology students who participate and attend the Conference each year.

Kudos to all the clinical professors and directors who encouraged and incentivized student participation. A special thank you to lead SLPs who lobbied their school districts to allow their SLPs to attend the SHAV Conference this year. I was excited to see audiologists and SLPs from all settings, including private practice, state agencies, hospitals and early intervention.

One of many highlights included the Communication Disorders Foundation (CDF) Silent Auction. For the second time, I participated, but did not win. However, it was a delicious way to raise money for aspiring students and an excellent networking opportunity. I am honored by the participation of the CDF, which awards monetary prizes to students each year through the Poster Presentations.

Vice President for Continuing Education, Amber Handon, and her committee worked tirelessly to ensure that the Conference was smooth, engaging and insightful. Some of the highlights of the Conference included our keynote speaker, Dr. Lynn Williams, from East Tennessee State University, who inspired SHAV members to remain engaged in the political process. She presented us with ways to stay informed via ASHA Action Alerts.

I attended sessions that equipped me with fresh ideas and evidence based practices on fluency, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices, and aphasia therapy. I left the Conference smarter, invigorated and ready to take my therapy to the next level. Apparently I was not the only one who enjoyed this year’s Conference. Here are just a few of the comments that I have received from members via email:

“I learned so much, send hand outs.”
“The Conference went well.”
“I can’t wait for the next one!”

Please join me for next year’s Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, March 21-24. See you there!

Cornelia Hawkins-Long, MS, CCC-SLP
SHAV President
2017 Prince George Toddler Fair

It was a beautiful spring day on Saturday, April 1, 2017. It was also the perfect backdrop for the 3rd Annual Prince George County Toddler Fair. We were thrilled to conduct this service opportunity with local agencies and volunteers from the surrounding areas. It was a wonderful chance for SHAV to give back to the community and help identify those children in need of service. Many thanks go to the phenomenal student volunteers from Hampton University, Longwood University and University of Virginia! They greatly enjoyed connecting with the families and they did a stellar job conducting the screenings. The students performed 74 speech-language screenings and 51 hearing screenings that day. The event was quite a success and SHAV is already eager to do it again next year!

Darlene Robke, MS, CCC-SLP
SHAV Past President

THANK YOU!

Thank you for a fabulous year and a spectacular experience! I can’t believe that the year has passed so quickly. There were certainly some challenging issues at times but the Association was quite active in 2016-2017 and we accomplished a great deal in a short time. I am most delighted that we were able to establish a Strategic Plan with clear and concise goals through 2019. Our strategic plan will guide us in our future initiatives as we increase the size and diversity of our membership, create more volunteer leadership opportunities, provide increased advocacy efforts and develop digital content across a variety of platforms. I can’t wait to see the progress with each of these items come to fruition!

I could not have successfully made it through the presidency without the support of our wonderful membership, the diligence of the SHAV Executive Board and the remarkable organizational skills of the Craven Management team! It has been an honor and a joy to serve as the president of SHAV. Thank you again for this wonderfully fulfilling opportunity.

Darlene Robke, MS, CCC-SLP
SHAV Past President

Keep Your Information Up-To-Date!

Visit the SHAV website (www.shav.org) and make sure your SHAV membership information is up-to-date. Log on to the Member Center of the website, enter your last name and your member number. Once submitted, you are able to edit your account information, such as mailing address, email address, professional information and more.

The Member Center also gives you access to renew your membership, print your membership card, register for an event, search for a member, access member-only resources and read the SHAV-a-Gram.

Don’t forget to join the listserv to receive up-to-the-minute news!

Log on today!
On any given day, audiology groups are fighting old and new turf wars, debating new legislative concerns, complaining about billing and reimbursement issues, and worrying about ever increasing student debt. Many even question if audiology has a future. Ay yai yai! Despite the frustrations, the job of being an audiologist is really quite rewarding. It is nice to get out of bed each day and make a positive impact on people’s lives, and managing the ear (and ear canal) is not very stressful in comparison to many other professions. In fact, CareerCast once again ranked audiology as one of the least stressful jobs, slotting fourth among the 200 occupations reviewed, and named audiologist as the number two job on its list of “Best Jobs.”

For me personally, my current position, operating my own private practice, is both rewarding and comfortable, and certainly not hazardous, unless I am using super glue for some reason. Occasionally, a difficult patient may make my day more stressful, but I happen to work with great people who keep the day’s problems in perspective. Throughout my career, I have had the pleasure of working in a variety of clinical settings and the one thing that stands out is that audiologists, in general, are caring, smart people who seek a nice work-life balance. And the genuine gratitude I regularly receive from my patients makes up for a fast-paced, demanding day. I truly love being an audiologist, and clearly others do, too. It is difficult to imagine a world without audiologists.

As the profession of audiology evolves, and it will continue to evolve, the demand for talented students with an interest in sound, balance and the hearing sciences will continue. We have earned the title of “doctor” which carries with it the responsibility to be an active steward of the profession of audiology - it is not a spectator sport. We must learn to effectively collaborate and mentor one another so that we can move forward together in this ever-changing healthcare landscape.

Increased accessibility to hearing care and balance-related services will be realized due to increased insurance coverage associated with the healthcare reform efforts. This is not a bad thing, but one must realize that standards, licensure and practice issues do vary from state to state. SHAV is well positioned to monitor all state legislative activity that affects the day-to-day practice of audiology in Virginia. SHAV membership is increasing, but we need more audiologists to join. Participation at the state level is imperative to the future needs of audiologists within Virginia. Please join me in helping to recruit audiologists to join SHAV and remain checked-in.

After all, according to Marshall McLuhan, “There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew.”

Leah Ball, AuD
VP of Audiology
The spotlight is used every month to help us get to know our long time and new members of the SHAV organization. This month I decided to focus on SHAV’s VP for Audiology, Dr. Leah Ball. Dr. Ball is a native of Missouri, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree and her master’s degree, and later her clinical doctorate in audiology from Arizona School of Health Sciences, part of A.T. Still University.

Dr. Ball’s tenure as an audiologist has been a diverse one. Shortly after earning her master’s degree, she embarked on a journey traveling around the United States with her husband who was then an officer in the U.S. Army. Over the course of nearly 20 years, Dr. Ball has worked in a small private audiology practice in Kirksville, Missouri, a large otolaryngology practice in Richmond, Virginia, a military tertiary care hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii, and an academic medical center (UVA) in Charlottesville, Virginia.

She now co-owns her own private practice, Richmond Hearing Doctors, which is located in Richmond, Virginia. She states, “we have a really great team of all women - we not only share the same values, but appreciate the different skills and talents that we each contribute to what has become a very successful practice.”

So, let’s meet Dr. Leah Ball!

What is your hometown?
I grew up in Kirksville, Missouri, where my father, a PhD audiologist, taught audiology (at Northeast Missouri State) while also operating a private practice. My mom worked alongside of my dad -- at one point they had a business called Sight and Sound where my mom handled eyeglasses and my dad dispensed hearing aids.

Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?
Bachelor of Science from Northeast Missouri State (renamed Truman State).

Where did you complete your graduate degree? And PhD?
Master of Science from Central Missouri State and then AuD from A.T. Still University

When did you first become a member of SHAV?
2016. (Note from SHAV: Dr. Ball was instrumental in developing, organizing and implementing the cerumen management training that SHAV was able to recently offer audiologists).

What positions have you held with SHAV if any?
VP for Audiology.

How many conferences have you attended and what is your favorite memory?
I wasn’t a member of SHAV until last year so the 2017 Conference was my first!

How did your SHAV membership help you professionally?
Before even joining SHAV, I encountered the fantastic Darlene Robke during a BASLP meeting where there was discussion related to the use of cerumen management (CM) by audiologists. Darlene, along with SHAV, helped ensure the new CM regulation protected the interests of all audiologists in Virginia. It became clear to me that state-level issues require advocacy and lobbying efforts which only SHAV can provide.

What specialty areas have you pursued?
Early in my career, I pursued vestibular and balance related issues, but now focus on hearing aids and tinnitus management.

What is your favorite food?
Fish tacos.

What is your favorite movie?
I don’t have a favorite movie, but I love a movie that makes me think. I love clever, mysterious, psychological thrillers - they are the absolute best.

Do you have pets?
I have an adorable dog named Mason.

What has been or is your dream vacation?
I have had the pleasure of traveling to many incredible places, but have yet to make it to Peru. A llama trek at Machu Picchu is definitely on my bucket list.

Tell us about your family?
My husband served 14 years in the U.S. Army JAG Corp and is now a health care attorney at Williams Mullen in Richmond. We have two children - they were both born while we were stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii. We also lived in New York and Charlottesville before settling in Richmond in 2007. My daughter Julia is 16 and is very passionate about music - she sings and plays bass in a professional classic rock band and also plays for a low key acoustic duo. She also loves math and science. My son Jack is 14 and is a technology oriented kid who loves PC gaming. He is also outdoorsy and very innovative with a natural entrepreneurial attitude. Everyone in my family plays tennis except for me. I spend a lot of time walking my favorite dog and cheering on my competitive family!

Shannon Salley
SHAV Past President 2016-2017
A 21-HUG SALUTE to Marie Ireland as the 2017 Martha Mullins-Callender Award Recipient

In the two decades since completing her MEd in speech-language pathology (from the University of Virginia, 1997), Marie Ireland has earned the distinguished respect of speech-language pathologists and colleagues who work across Virginia’s public schools and university training programs. She became our state Speech-Language Pathology Specialist in 2005, and has dedicated every working day since to the communication needs of Virginia’s children and to the professional needs of those who serve them. Marie is our representative to (and former Chair of) the State Education Agencies Communication Disabilities Council (SEACDC). She has also been an active member of the ASHA School Finance Committee, SLP Advisory Council, and Medicaid Committee. Most recently, Marie joined the newest “Journals” Board of ASHA as the Clinical Representative of Speech-Language Pathology in Schools.

CDF trustees were thrilled to receive wonderfully supportive letters from friends LaVae Hoffman and Lissa Power-deFur who recommended Marie as the 2017 Martha Mullins-Callender Award Recipient. As is tradition, the CDF planned to announce the secret award at the SHAV Conference’s business meeting, but Marie was at an ASHA meeting that same day, so we offered the award with much less fanfare. With an imagined drum roll, we proudly offer here our newest honoree, Marie Ireland. Please send her your congratulatory HUGS!

Brenda Seal
Contributor

The 2017 CDF Silent and Live Auctions at the SHAV Conference were tremendous successes, thanks to all of you who donated valued items and events, and to all of you who spent so generously to contribute slightly more than FOUR thousand dollars. CDF Trustees are eager to turn these proceeds into 2017 scholarships.

And because we care and know that some of you care, please know the 2016 CDF Donors list is available at http://www.cdfvirginia.org/Donors.html; it shows 2016 auction item donors and buyers, professional and corporate donors, university NSSLHA donors, memorial donations and more. The 2017 Winter SHAV-a-Gram was unable to print the categories that grouped individual names by specific contributions.

The 2017 SHAV Conference Student Poster winners were all from Longwood: third place award ($100) winners were Stephanie Fields, Lauren McGonagle, Anna Powers and Hunter Reese for Knowledge of Vocal Hygiene and Abuse in Longwood Education Majors; second place winner ($300) was Kayla Stramat for Hearing Screening of Seniors at Skilled Nursing Facilities; first place award winner ($500) was Joyanna Struzzieri for Comparisons of Bolus Sizes and Consistencies Used During Dysphagia Evaluations. Congratulations to all who presented!
**News from the Foundation Facts**

**Foundation Facts**

Forward Thinking: If you have not met Brenda Seal before - unlikely, but possible - you’ve undoubtedly heard of her. She is a recognized leader (ASHA Fellow, SHAV Fellow) in the professions; a sought-after presenter at SHAV Conferences; a highly-accomplished clinician, instructor, researcher and administrator. And so it is that we on the CDF Board are ever grateful that Brenda Seal took the presidential reins when longtime CDF President Pat Dewey stepped down from this position in January 2016. Now, a year-plus later, Brenda shares in conversation with FF some of her thoughts and observations about this line of work.

FF: To stay relevant and effective, how can professional boards, councils, and other deliberative bodies respond to the constant change that surrounds them?

Brenda: My answer, Judy, is exactly what I tell the grad students I have the pleasure to teach: we are a highly literate profession (everything we’re about in speech-language pathology and audiology) that requires us to read - a client referral summary, a progress note, a diagnostic billing code, a webinar’s new title, a revised code of ethics, a new book, relevant article, new practice portal protocols. Reading expands our perspective and keeps us informed when change occurs, and hopefully, prepares us for change. It affirms our self-worth.

Reading the SHAV-a-Gram offers a visit to the Communication Disorders Foundation of Virginia, and to your (up until now, at least) interesting interviews. Nah, seriously, if we could shout to the speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the state that we’re trying to do good for and by our future professionals, I’d wear a billboard around and carry a megaphone that informs others about our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do.

*Back to reading, at least for this interview. Reading the SHAV program showcases the Annual CDF Auction that essentially turns donors’ stuff into four or five thousand dollars that we turn into scholarships every year. Reading the applications from the university programs (come on faculty and students, ask us to invest in you) enables us to identify somebody who gets a supportive check honoring two of our state heroes. Reading our webpage showcases the scores of names who make a donation to the Foundation, donations of things and money. Reading the Student Posters at the SHAV Conference’s special session dedicated to student scholarship offers many of us a huge smile as we give away another $1,000 for learning! It’s powerful!*

FF: How can CDF meet the challenge of attracting and keeping supporters’ attention in today’s demanding world?

Brenda: Back to reading, at least for this interview. Reading the SHAV-a-Gram offers a visit to the Communication Disorders Foundation of Virginia, and to your (up until now, at least) interesting interviews. Nah, seriously, if we could shout to the speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the state that we’re trying to do good for and by our future professionals, I’d wear a billboard around and carry a megaphone that informs others about our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do our mission as a group of volunteers who support achievement and honor excellence in student and colleague accomplishments; we do.

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FF: How can readers of this column contribute ideas to the CDF Board?

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FF: In pursuing its mission, what kinds of new ideas should the CDF Board be exploring?

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FF: Thanks, Brenda, for your thought-provoking and occasionally humorous answers! I predict that your unbridled enthusiasm will move our readers, just as Warren Buffet’s words pumped you. And that’s good news for all of us: CDF and the professions win.

**Judith Rassi**

**Contributor**
ACE Award Recipients

The following ASHA members from Virginia are ACE recipients for the time period of October-December 2016. These individuals have met the requirements for the Award for Continuing Education (ACE) by accumulating 7.0 ASHA CEUs (70 contact hours) in three years. Congratulations to all!

Jessica Aaron
Laura Arcena
Lara Beauchamp
Sarah Beck
Margaret Belyea
Natalie Bennett
Elizabeth Birmingham
Carmen Burgess
Carrie Burris*
Lori Carozza*
Carrie Cilento*
Lauren Clark
Nancy Coleman
Maura Collins
George Cook
Keri Cullen

Amanda DeAngelis
Heather Denmark
Stephanie Dove
Susan Dunkley
Marialid Feliciano
Preston Feltly
Winifred Fitzgerald
Debora Forrester*
Danny Gnewikow*
Molly Grandy*
Laura Gresham
April Hale
Kathryn Harrington
Margaret Henry
Joan Hoover*
Diane Hurwitz*
Nwakaego Iwenofu
R. Darrell Jones*
Lisa Jurkiewicz
Katherine Marinello
Cynthia Marstin
Melanie Melton*
Simona Mitchell
Mary Lee Moncure
Candace Moore
Sarah Morey
Megan O’Neil
Deborah Pickell
Meredith Powell
Marie Randolph
Stacie Roberts
Andrea Schmitz

Jennifer Schottler
Sharon Schroeder
Pamela Smith
Alisha Springle*
Susan Stough*
Michelle Sykes
Kathleen Thorp
C Vann*
Cari Vest*
Amber Ward*
Rebecca Waterman
Christine Zimmerman

*Current SHAV Member
Members are encouraged to submit items for consideration and publication in the SHAV-a-Gram newsletter.

If you have a story, announcement or event you would like to place in the SHAV-a-Gram, please send your information to:

Jennifer Ruckner
SHAV VP for Public Relations and Communication
totstoteentherapy@gmail.com

Submission Deadlines

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