Empower children at every stage of childhood

The new Oticon Sensei family of pediatric hearing instruments focuses on individualization. Through high performance and adaptability, Sensei can help empower children with hearing loss at all stages of childhood. No matter the challenges they face along the way, children can continue learning and keep striving knowing Sensei is with them every step of the way.

Because every child deserves the best.

Discover more about how Oticon Sensei can help meet the many challenges of childhood hearing loss. Contact your Hearing Care Practitioner or visit www.oticonusa.com.
Changing thousands of lives

Mak plans now to attend the 2014 AG Bell Convention in Orlando, Fla.—one of the largest gatherings of children and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing, their families, and the professionals who support them from around the world.

This year’s theme of “Magic Made Real: Celebrating Our Heritage, Transforming Our Future” celebrates the pioneers and transformers who have brought us to this place in time. It also captures the energy, opportunity and creativity that is experienced in the field today as we begin a conversation about how we can transform the future for people living with hearing loss and embark on a journey to bring the association to a future of advancing listening and spoken language.

The convention will unfold at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin resort, located in the heart of Disney with easy access to all of the theme parks. Staying onsite at this Disney resort offers the opportunity to enjoy 17 spectacular restaurants and lounges, five pools, a white sand beach—and many other benefits for Disney guests. Walt Disney World also offers award-winning accommodations for people with disabilities, including reflective captioning, handheld captioning devices, video captioning and assistive listening devices which are available through guest relations for many shows, attractions and theaters.

Join Our Community

If you are not already part of the AG Bell community, the convention offers the perfect opportunity to learn more about the association and join our community. For families who are new to hearing loss, AG Bell offers a free 6-month trial membership so that you can experience the many questions she had about her son’s future with hearing loss, and being surrounded by other families and children who were able to give her tremendous hope for the future. Families will be able to see that the sky is the limit for children with hearing loss growing up today!

Professionals are an invaluable resource in the AG Bell community, sharing their knowledge through in-depth pre-convention workshops and convention sessions as well as serving as a resource for families and adults. As a professional, you will learn about the critical role you play in the lives of children and families today. The convention is an opportunity to learn about the latest in research and practice in the field of listening and spoken language. The Research Symposium offers a look at how laboratory research translates into real-world benefits in maximizing brain adaptability to enhance language development, speech perception and music appreciation from prominent researchers in the field. Joining the association as a professional member offers significant discounts on convention registration, publications and many other professional resources.

Adults will have much to celebrate as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the critical involvement of adults with hearing loss within the association. A spring gathering will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, where it all began, and we will recognize the long history and remarkable accomplishments of adults within the association while we are all in Orlando. Convention chair David Davis remembers his experiences with one of the founders of the field of listening and spoken language and how his friends in AG Bell continue to inspire him today. This year’s convention planning committee includes the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Networking subcommittee and they’ve done a fantastic job developing unique sessions, social opportunities and networking events to appeal to this segment of attendees. Adults with hearing loss have a unique identity; a shared bond and they are our most important mentor for children and families.

As you will see in the pages of this magazine, the 2014 AG Bell Convention offers the opportunity to join an incredible community—or to renew your connections to old friends as you make new ones. You will be able to learn about new technologies and strategies for living with hearing loss. And you’ll be able to network with other professionals and find mentors who can help you on your respective journey. I’ll truly look forward to seeing you in Orlando in just a few short months!

Sincerely,

Donald M. Goldberg, Ph.D., CCC-A/SLP, FAAA, LSLS Cert. AVT
President

Questions? Comments? Concerns?
Write to us: AG Bell
3417 Volta Place, NW
Washington, DC 20007
Or email us:
info@agbell.org
Or online:
ListeningAndSpokenLanguage.org

For more information, please visit UTDeafEd.com.
Phone: (210) 450-0716

Deaf Education & Hearing Science at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio

As a graduate of the Deaf Education and Hearing Science (DEHS) Program, Lindsay makes lives better each day as an itinerant teacher in Austin, Texas. She currently teaches 16 children. Over the course of her career she has the opportunity to impact over 400 children’s lives.

Lindsay is not alone. Graduates of the DEHS Program will touch over 8,000 lives during their careers and the number is still growing.

A premier listening and spoken language teacher preparation program for children with hearing loss

Deaf Education & Hearing Science at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio
Greetings and happy New Year! As you will read on the pages of this special issue, the association and our terrific volunteers are gearing up for the 2014 AG Bell Convention and we hope that you will join us in Orlando, Fla., in June. As we are planning our flagship event, we are once again grateful and inspired by our members’ commitment and dedication to advancing listening and spoken language for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing through quality programming packed with the most up-to-date information, approaches and knowledge on hearing loss. We hope that you are starting to make plans and will join us for what promises to be an unforgettable and magical convention!

In 2014, Volta Voices will undergo a publication redesign, starting with the March/April issue. We will continue to bring you quality information and inspiration with articles and columns written by experts in the field of hearing loss and listening and spoken language, and members of the AG Bell community of parents and individuals with hearing loss eager to share their experiences, tips and strategies for living a full life with hearing loss.

The redesign will aim to make the publication more contemporary and professional and to creatively present the feature stories to be more engaging and personal. Expect a new color palette, a more reader-friendly typeface, a more intuitive table of contents that is easy to follow, refreshed designs for our regular columns, and much more as we work to re-energize the publication while keeping it relevant, inviting and appealing to you—our readers and key stakeholders.

We are also actively looking for contributors and authors to continue to present you with pertinent and insightful information on hearing loss and listening and spoken language. As we have successfully done in the past, the articles in each issue in 2014 will be dedicated to a theme, presenting information from different perspectives to offer a well-rounded and comprehensive view of a topic related to hearing loss.

For 2014, we are planning on exploring the following topics and we want to hear from you with story ideas, article submissions and recommendations:

- Guiding Parents of Children Newly Identified with Hearing Loss
- Parenting Preschoolers with Hearing Loss
- Back to School
- Technology, Research and Advocacy
- Psychology of Hearing Loss
- Socialization in the Mainstream with Hearing Loss

We will have articles on hearing loss and learning disabilities, using songs to tell stories, financial aid resources for parents of children with hearing loss, dialogic reading, and much more! If there is a topic that you would like to learn more about, please submit your article, recommend an author or simply let us know: Thank you, as always, for reading. It is our hope that the following pages will make you as excited about the 2014 Convention as we are! Please email editor@agbell.org with your comments, ideas and suggestions.

Kind regards,

Anna Karkovska McGlew, M.A.
Editor, Volta Voices
Frequently Asked Questions About Auditory-Verbal Practice

NEW FROM THE AG BELL BOOKSTORE!

Do you have questions about auditory-verbal therapy and education? Find the answers 101 frequently asked questions from more than 100 Listening and Spoken Language Specialists. This book will help you:

- Learn about the history, philosophy, principles and outcomes of auditory-verbal practice
- Gain an understanding of contemporary issues and current trends in field
- Build strong parent-professional partnerships that foster the development of listening, spoken language and literacy
- Find hope, support and encouragement

Available in print and e-book format for all major e-readers
ListeningandSpokenLanguage.org/101FAQs

Paige Arbeiter, author of this issue’s “Hear Our Voices” column, was born with a profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss which was diagnosed when she was 11 months old. She received her first cochlear implant at age 3 ½. Paige followed a listening and spoken language route and was the first graduate of Clarke School for Hearing and Speech in New York. After attending her first AG Bell convention at 6 years old, her family moved to New Jersey so she could attend the Bergen County Special Services Hearing Impaired Program, where she is a senior today. Paige recently decided to have surgery for a second cochlear implant. It was this experience that led to her decision to become an audiologist. She has been accepted to Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y., as an undergraduate major in Communications Sciences and Disorders.

David Davis, chair of the 2014 AG Bell Convention, learned to listen and talk under the guidance of pioneer Helen Beebe in Easton, Pa. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Harvard University, he then spent 22 years in the closed captioning industry. He has switched gears and recently completed a master’s degree in library and information science and currently works as an academic librarian. He lives in Los Angeles with his partner Howard and a rescued family of three dachshunds.

Candace Haney, MCD, CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVEd, is the chair of the 2014 Convention Educational Program Committee and author of this issue’s “The Best Value for Professional Attendees: CEUs and Beyond.” She received both her Bachelor of Science (1999) and Master’s of Communication Disorders (2001) degrees from Auburn University in Auburn, Ala. Haney is licensed as a speech-language pathologist by the Georgia Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; holds her Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist, Certified Auditory-Verbal Educator. She has spent the past 13 years working with children with hearing loss and their families throughout North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. Haney joined Auditory-Verbal Center in Atlanta, Ga., in January 2009 after spending eight years working with children with hearing loss and their families throughout North Carolina and Virginia, in a variety of settings, including private practice, in-home and public schools.

Meredith K. Sugar, Esq., author of this issue’s “Tips for Parents” column, resides in Columbus, Ohio, with her husband and four children. Her son, Jonah, was born with a profound hearing loss and received simultaneous bilateral cochlear implants as an infant. Sugar is the president-elect of AG Bell and also serves in other organizations related to hearing loss. She is a practicing attorney in the Business and Private Client groups of the law firm Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, LLP.

Auditory-Verbal Center, Inc.
Teaching children who are deaf and hard of hearing to hear and speak without the use of sign language or lip reading

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VOICES CONTRIBUTORS
New Strategic Direction, New Webpage

As Volta Voices reported in the last issue of 2013, AG Bell has redefined its core purpose and mission to “advance listening and spoken language for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.” This mission captures the fundamentally unique identity of the association within the marketplace as well as the unique identity of the children and adults it represents. This revised mission focuses attention on the increasing need to advocate for the needs and rights of families who have chosen a listening and spoken language outcome. AG Bell has created a new webpage outlining the organization’s envisioned future for the listening and spoken language community, and its core values and objectives for serving members and the public. Learn more at ListeningAndSpokenLanguage.org/StrategicPlan.

LOFT Alum Leading Star in Theater Play

John McGinty, who participated in AG Bell’s Leadership Opportunities for Teens program in 2002, is an actor who is starring in the critically acclaimed play Tribes written by Nina Raine, in which Billy, played by McGinty, has been deaf since birth and is looking for his place in the world. McGinty played the role in two theaters’ productions—Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, Minn., and Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, Ill.

New Jersey Chapter Happenings

The New Jersey chapter of AG Bell held its annual Fall Conference last October. Donald M. Goldberg, Ph.D., CCC-SLP/A, FAAA, LSLS Cert. AVT, President of AG Bell, gave a keynote presentation, “From Diagnostics Through Management: Listening and Spoken Language for Children Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing.” Presenters and attendees shared valuable information, insights and resources.

After the conference, the chapter also participated for the first time in the Hearing Loss Association of America’s Walk4Hearing held in Mercer County Park in West Windsor, N.J. The event’s fundraising goal of $75,000 was met and exceeded, finally reaching more than $87,400! The chapter’s contribution was $2,570, with Paige S. Arbeiter (a 2013 LOFTee and this issue’s “Hear Our Voices” contributor) bringing in $935 of the total!

In November, the chapter co-sponsored an event at Midland Park High School, where the Secondary Hearing Impaired Program (SHIP) of Bergen County is housed, with Kathleen Treni as its principal. It was the fall C.H.A.T.S. (Conversation—Hearing Loss—Advocacy—Teenyboppers—Social) meeting, where students, parents and professionals share information and catch up with each other.

The meeting featured excerpts from the newly released movie 95 Decibels, which tells the story of Miranda Reznik (a LOFTee) and her family, and student presentations by AG Bell members Paige Arbeiter, Ruth Carroll and Rita Margiasso. Sue Schmidtberger, president of the New Jersey chapter, also gave a presentation on “Advocacy: The BIGGER Picture.” She outlined her experiences working beyond the basics—forming a parent support group at North Shore/Long Island Jewish Hospital, working with AG Bell on the national and state levels, organizing team New Jersey AG Bell for Walk4Hearing, and being a member of a four-person team formed to represent the state of New Jersey at the pennet 2 (PEPNet) summit in Chicago, a project by the U.S. Department of Education, to improve the postsecondary outcomes for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

New Resource: AG Bell Spanish-language Website

AG Bell is delighted to announce the release of a Spanish-language version of its website. Designed especially for families of children who are newly diagnosed with hearing loss, the Knowledge Center Spanish-language version provides critical information about hearing loss and the next steps that should be taken to help children with hearing loss to develop listening and spoken language right from the start. The website also guides families to resources for language development to help their child develop to their fullest potential. Families also will gain advice on the legal rights of children with hearing loss as well as educational resources under U.S. federal law to ensure that children receive the classroom services and supports that they need.

“The Spanish-language version of the Listening and Spoken Language Knowledge Center serves to fill an informational and resource gap for families of children with hearing loss whose primary language of communication is Spanish,” said AG Bell president Donald M. Goldberg, Ph.D., CCC-A/SLP, FAAA, LSLS Cert. AVT. “We hope and expect this information will help families obtain resources and guidance in critical periods for their child with hearing loss when time is of the essence.”

To access the Knowledge Center en español, please go to ListeningAndSpokenLanguage.org/espanol.
SOUND BITES

Ohio Chapter State Conference Recap
The Ohio chapter of AG Bell held its biannual statewide conference last November at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, attended by families, students and professionals from the surrounding areas.

Becky Clem, M.A., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT, gave a keynote presentation, “Health Literacy: What is it? Why is it important? What can we do about it?” Clem is the rehabilitation services education coordinator and Listening and Spoken Language Specialist at Cook Children’s Health Care System in Fort Worth, Texas. She coordinates all aspects of education for rehabilitation services clinical staff and also manages the First Sounds-First Words program, which is a series of educational programs designed to increase knowledge and awareness for parents and professionals.

Other topics included music therapy, telepractice, make-and-take sessions, an audiolingual open forum, a roundtable discussion, and life lessons for raising a child with hearing loss.

The Ohio chapter would like to thank its gold sponsor, Cochlear, for supporting the conference, and the silver sponsors, Brown Audio Service and MED-EL, for their generous support.

Presentation at Ohio chapter conference, November 2013.

AT St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf (SJI), we believe that children with hearing loss deserve the opportunity to listen, speak and read.

As international leaders in listening and spoken language (LSL) based education, our highly trained staff of certified deaf educators, speech therapists and audiologists help children develop oral language without the use of sign language. SJI is the only school for the deaf to be fully accredited by the prestigious Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS).

Visit us at sjid.org & ihearlearning.org for more information on our locations and services.

MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

AG Bell Board Member Featured in News Telegram
Evan Brunell, AG Bell board member and president of the Massachusetts chapter of AG Bell, was recently featured in a local newspaper article about his work covering the Boston Red Sox baseball team. Brunell, who is a bilateral cochlear implant user, was a datacaster hired by Major League Baseball to score games. His role was roughly equivalent to a stadium’s official scorekeeper, just catering to a significantly larger audience. He operated in that capacity since the beginning of the 2011 season, lodged up in the third row of the Fenway Park press box behind home plate. Brunell’s play-by-play and box scores were distributed by Major League Baseball online, on smart phones and television, and to its syndication partners, which include industry leader ESPN. You can read the full article at www.telegram.com by searching for Evan Brunell.

AG Bell Utah Chapter Featured on Local TV
The work of AG Bell and its Utah chapter were featured on KBYU Eleven Community Connection. Steve Noyce, AG Bell Academy board member and president of AG Bell Utah, and colleague Lori Ruth talked about the association’s work and service to children with hearing loss who use listening and spoken language. You can watch a video of the program by going to YouTube and searching for “KBYU Eleven Community Connection: AG Bell Association.”

Learning as a Family.

Discover how to enrich your baby’s life with meaningful sound and language through personalized family sessions, collaborative services, parent groups and home visits. Clarke’s Birth-to-3 Programs provide strategies to support language development through play, speech and listening activities in a supportive environment.

For more information on Clarke’s Early Intervention and Birth-to-3 Programs contact our central office at 413.584.3450 or email info@clarkeschools.org.

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(317) 471-8560

St. Louis Campus
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St. Louis, MO 63107
(314) 532-3211
Speak Your Truth with Rosalind Wiseman

By Anna Karkovska McGlew, M.A.

D uring the keynote presentation at the 2014 AG Bell Convention in Orlando, Fla., June 26–30, 2014, Rosalind Wiseman, a best-selling author, sought-after speaker, and an internationally recognized expert on children, teens, parenting, bullying and social justice, will share her insights on how to speak one’s truth with authenticity, conviction and dignity, and applying this to interactions with family, friends, teachers and classmates in a variety of everyday life settings.

Wiseman’s work aims to help parents, educators and young people successfully navigate the social challenges of young adulthood. Each year, she works with tens of thousands of students, educators, parents, counselors, coaches and administrators to create communities based on the belief that each person has a responsibility to treat themselves and others with dignity. In 2011, she was one of the principal speakers at the White House Summit on Bullying. Wiseman was most recently a featured contributor in the November 21, 2013, issue of TIME magazine.

A Voice for Youth

Wiseman is most famously the author of Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends, and the New Realities of Girl World, which was the basis for the movie Mean Girls. “I felt like adults were not understanding the lives of their kids, that it was being trivialized and wasn’t taken seriously. I felt strongly that it was important for people to understand what the everyday teenager is going through,” said Wiseman of why she felt compelled to write the book.

She is also the author of the newly released Masterminds and Wingmen: Helping Our Boys Cope with Schoolyard Power, Locker-Room Tests, Girlfriends, and the New Rules of Boy World, which deals with the social realities that boys face every day. “I think boys are much trickier than girls,” says Wiseman who is the mother of two boys. “Girls have a language—a code—to talk about their lives; it is socially accepted for girls to share and analyze. Boys don’t have that. I wrote this book, in partnership with over 200 boys, to give boys and the people who care about them a language to talk about the things that are important to them.”

Owning Up

After graduating from college with a degree in political science, and having just gotten her first degree black belt in Karate, Wiseman was asked to teach self-defense to a group of high school girls. Although she immediately loved the work, it also brought a lot of questions and self-reflection leading her to develop the Owning Up™ curriculum, which she still uses to this day, teaching it to educators all over the world. “I was asked to write a program that would teach children how to spell out social conflicts that they were experiencing. Not huge conflicts necessarily but everyday kinds of conflicts that kids were getting into that would often get much bigger if they were not addressed properly,” recalled Wiseman.

Owning Up™ is a structured program for teaching students to own up and take responsibility—as perpetrators, bystanders and targets—for unethical behavior. The curriculum is designed for adolescent groups in schools and a variety of other settings, aiming to create a climate of safety, respect and dignity, and can be taught separately to boys and girls or adapted to co-ed settings.

The program presents a unique and comprehensive approach to preventing youth violence by targeting the root causes of bullying and other forms of social cruelty. It exposes the cultural expectations that teach young people to humiliate and dehumanize others as the way to achieve power and respect, then challenges them to transform this dynamic. “The work that I do is about giving people a voice. It is based on understanding how people get to a place where they value people or devalue people who are different from them for whatever reason,” says Wiseman.

Speak out with Dignity

Students learn to recognize that they have a responsibility to treat themselves and others with dignity and to speak out against social cruelty and injustice. “To be able to recognize when your voice is being taken away—silenced—or when someone else is being robbed of their voice, is the most powerful first step to living a dignified life. When we recognize that truth, we are able to speak out and advocate for ourselves or loved ones in a way that works,” noted Wiseman.

Wiseman informs her work by always coming back to a simple maxim: people have a right to their feelings, no one has the right to question that, and people should be able to express their truth—whatever they feel—in an authentic, constructive, and, ultimately, positive way. Wiseman hinted at some of the topics that she plans to address at the 2014 AG Bell Convention this summer and which are detailed in her books. “I will talk about how to be able to take the bad feelings that you have in your stomach and put them to words for yourself. And to think about where and when is the best place to confront the person who is abusing their power against you based on your relationship with that person.”

“The work that I do is about giving people a voice. It is based on understanding how people get to a place where they value people or devalue people who are different from them for whatever reason.”

Wiseman’s work also addresses how teachers and educators can ensure that the children they teach and work with feel able to and can participate fully in their school environment. Wiseman’s advice to teachers...
and educators: create an atmosphere where the child knows they can come to you and talk to you in a way that they feel safe. “Come on kids, knock it off” is no longer an acceptable strategy for educators to deal with conflict among students.

“It sends a signal to the target that the teacher is not their advocate and it tells the perpetrator that they can get away with it,” Wiseman said.

Regardless of the presence or absence of a disability, she advises parents to understand that their child’s behavior is bullying.

Wiseman acknowledges that parenting their school and other everyday environments that will help their child navigate successfully that the parents’ role is to foster social competence and awareness skills other children and that the parents’ role is to take place over time and lead towards children developing positive and effective relationships with adults and their peers.

Her book Queen Bee Moms and Kingpin Dads: Dealing with the Parents, Coaches, and Counselors Who Can Make—or Break—Your Child’s Future provides tips and strategies for parents to be effective and nurturing in an imperfect world.

In looking forward to the 2014 AG Bell Convention, Wiseman expressed her excitement about joining us as the keynote presenter.

“She had her excitement about joining us as the keynote presenter. Her book Queen Bee Moms and Kingpin Dads: Dealing with the Parents, Coaches, and Counselors Who Can Make—or Break—Your Child’s Future provides tips and strategies for parents to be effective and nurturing in an imperfect world.

In looking forward to the 2014 AG Bell Convention, Wiseman expressed her excitement about joining us as the keynote presenter.

“When I come into a new community, I talk about how people can advocate for themselves in a way that works—here is what makes it harder and easier for people to be able to respond effectively when somebody is abusing their power. Here are things that I’ve found to work and you tell me if it works for you. What I don’t do is claim that I have the absolute truth. I am going to present a lot of information but I hope that we can have a real dialogue, so that what I present becomes meaningful and valuable to the people who are participating or listening to me. I look forward to meeting the AG Bell community in June!”

We hope you will join us for what promises to be a dynamic and exciting convention! Please let us know the topics that you would like Rosalind Wiseman to address in her keynote presentation at info@agbell.org. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in Orlando!®

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Visit www.coloradoagbell.org

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**GREETINGS FROM COLORADO AGBELL!**

We are excited to make a fresh start for the CO Chapter and mirror National’s Strategic Plan of professional support and training, support for adults and children and advancing listening and spoken language for deaf/hard of hearing families.

We will continue our fundraisers:
- CCAF, Walk-for-Hearing affiliation with HLAA

Preliminary activities and goals for 2014:
- family advocacy training
- family event at the Zoo
- annual event at Rosie’s Ranch
- training for professionals to increase awareness and support for families choosing listening and spoken language
- develop new membership roster
- develop lines of communication with members
- attend the National Convention in Orlando, FL
- offer scholarships for professional training and family attendance in preparation for the 2016 convention IN DENVER!

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Visit www.coloradoagbell.org

Marti Bleidt
President, CO Chapter AG Bell
marti.bleidt@dpsk12.org | info@coloradoagbell.org
The 2014 AG Bell Convention is just around the corner and promises to be the best one yet, crafted with an eye towards serving AG Bell’s three distinct populations—families and their children who are deaf and hard of hearing, listening and spoken language professionals, and adults with hearing loss—and providing them with the latest in the field of hearing loss and supporting AG Bell staff, this group of dedicated AG Bell members has drawn on their own experiences and sought input from the community to develop a program that celebrates the pioneers in the field and their contributions to the current favorable landscape of universal newborn hearing screening, amazing hearing technology and early intervention.

The 2014 convention committee is the first to include the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Networking subcommittee. This group of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing have surveyed their peers and contributed ideas for the education program, social events and networking opportunities intended to appeal to adults with hearing loss and longtime AG Bell members. “When our convention planning committee first discussed themes and ideas, we had a sense of future, of transformation, of opportunity, and we wanted to tap into the energy and creativity of our constituents. Our organization has a strong volunteer spirit and always has, and it has been our tireless parents, professionals, and deaf and hard of hearing adults that have paved the way for all of us today. In coming up with our theme—Magic Made Real: Celebrating Our Heritage, Transforming Our Future—we wanted to acknowledge our pioneers and transformers and continue to pave the way into the future,” said Davis (see page 48 for an interview with Davis).

The upcoming convention aims to bring the AG Bell community closer to its collectively envisioned future in which families raising children who are deaf and hard of hearing will receive the information, education and support needed to make confident, well-informed decisions through their child’s entire educational and life transitions. Learn more about the exciting benefits and highlights of the 2014 AG Bell Convention.

Other unique features that await you at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin include:
- Endless choice of recreational activities on the resort grounds, including five sparkling crystal blue pools, paddle boats, tennis, basketball, volleyball, jogging trails, health clubs, shopping and more!
- Walking distance to Epcot Center, Hollywood Studios and Disney’s BoardWalk. Complimentary boat shuttles are also available to these locations from the Swan and Dolphin.
- 17 different restaurants and bars offering a variety of cuisine choices for every taste and palate. Families are sure to appreciate Picabu, the always-open adventure eatery, which serves up affordable and unique dining options in a buffet/cafeteria setting created to delight both kids and the young at heart.

More Value for Everyone in 2014
Back by popular demand! As in 2012, families of children with hearing loss and adults living with hearing loss can receive up to two badges for each registration. The convention offers families and adults living...
Make sure you register by April 16, 2014, to take advantage of even more savings during the early bird registration period!

Networking Events and Activities

First Timers Orientation
Friday, June 27 • 10:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
If you have never attended an AG Bell convention before, or would like a refresher on how to make the most of your experience in Orlando, this orientation is for you! Learn how to navigate the schedule, set priorities, and meet other newcomers.

Dena Goldstein Mixer
Friday, June 27 • 3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
This reception is a wonderful opportunity for adults with hearing loss and their friends to ask questions and share experiences in a relaxed and friendly social environment. The event is free of charge, but a ticket is required. (Made possible by the Dena Goldstein Memorial Fund.)

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Welcome Reception
Friday, June 27 • 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
Not to be missed! Join fellow convention attendees for a Welcome Reception and the Grand Opening of the convention Exhibit Hall. Build your excitement, catch up with old friends, make new friendships, and share it all with fellow attendees and exhibitors. Highlights include hors d’oeuvres, refreshments, and a chance to explore the exhibit floor.

Back by popular demand! Join the scavenger hunt, in which exhibitors hold the clues, and your completed answer cards will be turned in for multiple prize drawings.

LOFT Reunion Lunch
Saturday, June 28 • 12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.
This event is for LOFT “graduates” and current and former counselors to catch up with old friends and make new connections with LOFT alumni. Immediate family members are welcome. Tickets are $25 per person.

Club Volta
Saturday, June 28 • 8:30–10:30 p.m.
“Club Volta” is back and quickly becoming an AG Bell convention tradition! Designed especially for adults who are deaf and hard of hearing, this festive gathering is a special opportunity to meet up with longtime AG Bell pals and welcome new friends. After dinner on the town or in one of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin’s fabulous restaurants, gather for an evening of friendship and laughter. This event includes one beverage ticket for wine, beer or soft drink; light hors d’oeuvres; and fun activities. Convention registrants and non-registrants are welcome. Tickets are $35 per person for convention registrants and $50 per person for non-registrants.

Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, June 29 • 7:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m.
AG Bell conventions have a special history of bringing together families who begin as strangers and end as lifelong friends. Don’t miss this opportunity to gather with other families who understand what it means to support listening and spoken language, and celebrate the magic made real. Enjoy a full breakfast buffet before starting your day of learning and networking. Tickets are $20 each for adults, $10 each for children ages 3–9, and free for children younger than 3. Please register by June 5 for this exciting event.

The AG Bell convention offers valuable continuing education credit to be applied to the Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS®) certification, ASHA, AAA, or towards state and local education agencies. Registrants need to mark their registration form with the appropriate agencies and no additional fees will be charged for obtaining CEUs. See page 25 for more information on the value offered to professional attendees.

Club Volta
Saturday, June 28 • 8:30–10:30 p.m.
“Club Volta” is back and quickly becoming an AG Bell convention tradition! Designed especially for adults who are deaf and hard of hearing, this festive gathering is a special opportunity to meet up with longtime AG Bell pals and welcome new friends. After dinner on the town or in one of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin’s fabulous restaurants, gather for an evening of friendship and laughter. This event includes one beverage ticket for wine, beer or soft drink; light hors d’oeuvres; and fun activities. Convention registrants and non-registrants are welcome. Tickets are $35 per person for convention registrants and $50 per person for non-registrants.

Make sure you register by April 16, 2014, to take advantage of even more savings during the early bird registration period!

Become a Convention Volunteer
AG Bell will begin accepting applications for onsite convention volunteers in January 2014. Those attendees accepted as volunteers will receive a discounted registration fee of $290. Look for more information, including announcements on how to apply in AG Bell’s weekly e-newsletter or online at ListeningandSpokenLanguage.org/2014Convention. Please note that volunteers are responsible for their own travel expenses and accommodation arrangements. “It is in giving that I have received so much more in return,” said David Davis, 2014 Convention Chair. Join him in giving back by applying to volunteer at the 2014 Convention!

Transportation
All convention attendees are eligible to receive $8 off roundtrip shared ride shuttle service from and to the airport courtesy of SuperShuttle Orlando using discount code AG14. Discounted rates are $18 one way and $32 roundtrip per person. Exclusive Sedans, SUVs, and Vans are available (rates vary). To book your transportation from/to the airport, please call SuperShuttle directly at 1-800-258-3826 or refer to ListeningandSpokenLanguage.org/2014Convention to book online.

AG Bell Convention App
AG Bell is pleased to offer a free event app full of convention information for attendees! The app will feature session information, presenter bios, venue maps, exhibitor and sponsor listings, and push notifications to bring you up-to-date information on convention events and much more!

Communication Access
All pre-convention workshops and convention educational sessions will be real-time captioned. Oral, Cued Speech and ASL interpreting services will be provided upon request and as resources are available. The deadline for requests is May 14, 2014. Please indicate your preference when you register: ASL interpreter, oral interpreter or cued speech transliterant. We look forward to welcoming you to the 2014 AG Bell Convention at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin®
### 2014 Convention Schedule at a Glance

**Thursday, June 26**
- 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Registration Open
- 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Pre-convention Workshops (ticket required)
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Pre-convention Workshops (ticket required)

**Friday, June 27**
- 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration Open
- 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Children’s Program
- 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Pre-convention Workshops (ticket required)
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. First Timers Orientation
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break/Exhibits
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Dena Goldstein Mixer (MSP required)
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall

**Saturday, June 28**
- 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration Open
- 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Children’s Program
- 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. General Session/Keynote Presentation
- 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break/Exhibits
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Poster Session
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. LOFT Reunion Lunch (ticket required)
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Break/Exhibits
- 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Happy Hour (ticket required)
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Club Volta (ticket required)

**Sunday, June 29**
- 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration Open
- 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast with Friends (ticket required)
- 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Children’s Program
- 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Research Symposium
- 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Break/Exhibits
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break/Exhibits
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

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**The Best Value for Professional Attendees: CEUs and Beyond**

**By Candace Hickerson Haney, MCD, CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVEd**

The 2014 Convention will be brimming with continuing education opportunities! As a professional attendee you will be able to earn approved continuing education units (CEUs) from the AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language (which can be applied towards your LSLS application or recertification requirements), the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the American Academy of Audiology (AAA). Professionals can also request documentation of instructional hours attended while at the convention to verify their attendance for teaching licensure or other certification requirements.

In addition to earning valuable CEUs, as a professional attendee, you will gain a fresh and innovative perspective on current topics in the field and learn first-hand about the newest techniques, approaches and technology for listening and spoken language development. You will have the opportunity to meet the professionals leading the field of listening and spoken language into the future. Face-to-face interaction with these experts and the opportunity to ask pertinent questions is one of the most effective ways to learn and come up with fresh new practice ideas of your own!

The convention provides a refreshing break from your day-to-day routine. You will be surrounded by fellow listening and spoken language professionals with plenty of occasions to celebrate the successes of our rewarding and dynamic field. The setting of the convention—on the beautiful grounds of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin resort—will foster a spirit of team-building with peers in a relaxed and collegial setting away from work. Your mind will be brimming with new information, ideas and resources that will enhance your confidence and excitement for the important service you provide to families and individuals with hearing loss.

The AG Bell convention is the biggest professional event dedicated to listening and spoken language development and as such offers unparalleled networking opportunities to connect with colleagues from other geographical areas and foster new professional relationships. It is by collaborating that we gain insight into the experiences of others who face the same key common issues and concerns regardless of location and professional environment.

The Exhibit Hall will showcase the latest innovative, newly released products and services from more than 70 exhibitors, giving you a hands-on opportunity to explore materials before purchasing anything. Poster presentations also will share current research and special projects.

The AG Bell convention is really a one-of-a-kind, all-in-one event. I hope to see you there!
Re-convention workshops offer participants the opportunity to delve deeply into a topic related to hearing loss and spoken language development presented by experts in the field. The content reflects evidence-based research, practice and information pertaining to one or more of the nine Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) domains of knowledge. Ten pre-convention workshops will be available on Thursday, June 26, and Friday morning, June 27, before the convention. There is an additional fee of $85 per workshop. Space is limited so be sure to register as early as possible!

**Immersive Study! Pre-Convention Workshops**

**Thursday, June 26**
8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

**Bridging the Gaps: A Continuous Learning Model for the 21st Century LSL Professional**
Teresa H. Caraway, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT
Oberkotter Foundation Professional Learning Initiative

Wendelyn DeMoss, M.S., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT
Oberkotter Foundation Professional Learning Initiative

Kathryn Wilson, M.A., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT
First YEARS, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

This workshop will discuss and analyze a practical framework as a tool that practitioners can use to rate their current practice and understanding against a set of descriptors. Participants will engage in discussions and explore how the leveling framework can inform a practitioner’s professional development plans and content of future learning. The workshop will focus on using 21st century learning skills for LSL practitioners to become connected learners and contribute to the collective intelligence to transform LSL practice. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own device and actively engage in using 21st century tools to develop a professional learning plan based upon a well-constructed leveling rubric to facilitate continuous and ongoing improvement in their knowledge and skills so that child outcomes can be maximized.

**It’s not Fine. It’s not OK.**
Krista S. Heavner, M.S., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of Exceptional Children

Sherri Vernelson, M.Ed., LSLS Cert. AEd
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of Exceptional Children

Children with hearing loss attending mainstream public schools may be significantly behind their peers with typical hearing despite having good or even excellent spoken language abilities. Teachers and educators often assert, “He is doing fine,” “She is doing OK,” when the reality may be quite different. This workshop will discuss the specific needs of students with hearing loss in the classroom when a language delay greater than 1½ to 2 years exists through presenting case studies and videos; describe how consultants in North Carolina have addressed the needs for students with hearing loss within Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in a direct, data-driven, yet pragmatic manner; present recorded interviews with directors of divisions of exceptional children in LEAs who have implemented the plans recommended to IEP teams; and describe how small, yet significant changes have impacted outcomes for their students.

**Tomorrow’s Magic Made Real Through Today’s Learning**
Amy Peters Lalios, M.A., CCC-A, LSLS Cert. AVT
Center for Communication, Hearing & Deafness

Pam Stemper, B.A.
Know and Grow Institute, LLC

When babies have continuous access to the sounds of their environment, parents witness the magic of children effectively learning their home’s spoken language with seemingly little effort. As children begin school, parents hope and expect the “magic” to naturally continue through ongoing learning and development. For parents of children with hearing loss, these hopes and expectations can be uncertain. Through the collaboration of a parent and a certified auditory-verbal therapist, this workshop will address schemas (what one knows) to bring about the “magic” in development of spoken language, literacy, critical thinking and social skills in children with hearing loss. Focus will be on augmenting what we know about brain development, language, and the innate abilities of children and parents, and on fostering an effective triad among parent, child and professional.
Thursday, June 26
1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Real-Time Embedded Coaching, It Really Works!
Betsy Moog Brooks, M.S., CED, LSLS Cert. AVT
The Moog Center for Deaf Education
This workshop will focus on the strategies and techniques of real-time embedded coaching, a method of “demonstration” and “return demonstration” to help parents enhance communication with their child. Embedded coaching is a term applied to coaching a parent or primary caregiver and providing suggestions, while the engaged in an activity with a child, rather than waiting until after the activity is over. The early interventionist is providing support in real-time by making comments and suggestions throughout the activity. The workshop will discuss techniques for implementing embedded coaching into a parent-infant session, review the organization of the parent-infant session; provide guidance on how to capitalize on the parent/ caregiver’s current skills and learning style; and discuss the importance of describing the critical features of the activity or technique being implemented to the parent/caregiver.

Determining Eligibility: Considerations for the “Good Student”
Karen L. Anderson, Ph.D.
Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss
Lynde Allen, LSLS Cert. AVT
The Ear Foundation
Jack turns over his boiled egg and says “Look mommy, I didn’t eat it!” Chloe hides behind the sofa and her daddy starts the “Where’s Chloe gone” routine. Both of these scenarios show children who are developing key concepts in the Theory of Mind. This workshop will help participants identify key concepts for preschool children and learn about the Theory of Mind Inventory online development measure and its use in research with children who are deaf and hard of hearing. The workshop will provide filmed examples of auditory-verbal therapy and give participants lots of new ideas they can put into practice for the children they serve.

Friday, June 27
8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Facilitating Change Through Motivational Interviewing
Darcy Stowe, M.S., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT
Hearts for Hearing
Lindsay Hanna, M.S., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT
Hearts for Hearing
Steven Wells, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma
Listening and spoken language professionals who work with children with hearing loss are continuously challenged to enhance their skills and stay on the edge of new knowledge, technology and approaches. Other professions often offer excellent tools and strategies to help hearing health professionals better serve families of children with hearing loss who seek a listening and spoken language outcome. This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn from the field of social work and offer a hands-on practice with a dynamic technique called Motivational Interviewing. Participants will leave with new knowledge about the history and practice of Motivational Interviewing along with critical skills to help implement this method in their own practice to better help families of children with hearing loss work through the many changes and challenges in their journey of living a rich and fulfilling life.

Hands-On: Apps and the iPad
Christine Gustafson, M.S., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT, CED, LSLS Cert. AVEd
The Moog Center for Deaf Education
Betsy Moog Brooks, M.S., CED, LSLS Cert. AVEd
The Moog Center for Deaf Education
Teachers and therapists are always looking for new ideas, activities, materials and ways of doing familiar activities. This workshop will focus on using an iPad to implement traditional teaching and therapy activities using new technology. The iPad may be used to practice skills in the areas of speech, vocabulary, language, literacy and listening. This workshop will focus on using apps appropriately within the context of a well-planned lesson and provide sample lesson plans for some of the apps under discussion. The apps will be presented through live demonstration and video and their advantages for teaching children with hearing loss will be explained. Participants will gain ideas for using specific apps and receive a list of apps that have been found to be successful. Attendees are encouraged to bring their iPads to the workshop for maximized learning.

Visit ListeningandSpokenLanguage.org/2014Convention to learn more!
Latest and Greatest! Concurrent Sessions

Professional Practice
- Trends in professional preparation for LSL practitioners and mentors
- Shifts in professional practice, work environments and caseloads
- Adherence to educational policy (response to intervention, Common Core Standards, etc.)
- Audiological trends and practices
- Reimbursement for services and technology
- Applying principles of evidence-based practice, clinical research models
- Professional ethics

Communication
- Social media
- Telepractice
- Networking, collaboration and information sharing among professionals, families, adults with hearing loss, children with hearing loss, etc.
- New Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) legislation

Technology
- Hearing technology issues
- Advancements in hearing technology
- Hearing technology basics
- Updates and programming strategies in hearing aids
- Testing/programming software for audiologists
- Audiological techniques and strategies in obtaining optimal access to spoken language
- Optimizing programming of technology
- Implantable devices (cochlear implants, bone-anchored auditory implants, auditory brainstem implants) and processing strategies
- Assistive listening devices and classroom acoustics
- Audiological management for special populations

Living with Hearing Loss
- Deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) identity considerations (within the changing landscape of deafness)
- Self-advocacy for children with hearing loss
- Advocacy for adults
  - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accommodations, captioning, loops, etc.
  - Educating others about hearing loss
  - Self-advocacy in work and social environments
  - Career advancement
  - Advocating for new legislation or accommodations
- Health care advancements and shifts affecting the DHH community
- Hearing aids, cochlear implants, insurance, etc.
- Health Care for America Plan (“Obamacare”)
- Connecting DHH mentors with mentees and/or families (interactive panels or networking sessions)
- Life transitions (high school to college, school to work life, work to retirement, etc.)
- Support for siblings or significant others of children/adults with hearing loss
- Raising children/teen with hearing loss
- Legal rights in school, work and health care environments

Therapeutic/ Clinical Management
- Therapeutic management of special populations
- Family education, support and resources
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)
- Speech and hearing science
- Hearing preservation
- Multicultural populations
- Health literacy among families and other consumers of hearing health care
- Adult, teen, pediatric aural (re)habilitation

Concurrent sessions organized in five learning tracks as well as vendor and exhibitor learning labs will provide participants with information on current best practices and cutting-edge developments in the field of listening and spoken language as well as with inspirational success stories and case studies that pave the way for living with hearing loss. Attend sessions in the following learning tracks:

**Educational, Therapeutic and Clinical Management**

- Educational Management
  - Audiotics (classroom, workplace, etc.)
  - Certification, teacher preparation, professional standards
  - Educational transitions (early intervention to school, middle to high school, specialized school to local school, etc.)
  - Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) education for special populations
  - Educational services, accommodations & modifications (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act vs. Section 504, etc.)

- Therapeutic/Clinical Management
  - Therapeutic management of special populations
  - Family education, support and resources
  - Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)
  - Speech and hearing science
  - Hearing preservation
  - Multicultural populations
  - Health literacy among families and other consumers of hearing health care
  - Adult, teen, pediatric aural (re)habilitation

**Maximizing Brain Adaptability**

Enhancing Listening for Language Development, Speech Perception and Music Appreciation

Sunday, June 29
8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

For the ninth convention in a row, AG Bell is pleased to present its renowned Research Symposium featuring eminent scientists in the field of hearing health research and auditory skill development. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) within the National Institutes of Health has sponsored these symposia so that AG Bell attendees have the unique opportunity to learn how laboratory research translates into benefits for individuals with hearing loss.

The Research Symposium is a perennial highlight for professionals, individuals with hearing loss and families alike working towards a listening and spoken language outcome.

This year’s presentations will focus on the dramatic interplay between cognitive adaptability, or brain plasticity, and technology that provides audibility for language development, improved listening skills and music appreciation.

What links these remarkable elements together is meaningful interaction in the form of conversation, guided practice or intervention, and listening to music so that the neural pathways designed for hearing can play their natural roles when provided with audition through technology.

The 2014 Research Symposium chairmen, Peter Sturges, Ph.D., and Tulk Ramanathar, Ph.D., have once again invited an impressive panel of scientists to share their work with AG Bell convention attendees.

Beverly Wright, Ph.D., Northwestern University, School of Communication, will present on brain plasticity in relation to auditory perceptual learning.

Kate Gfeller, Ph.D., University of Iowa, School of Music, will present on music appreciation with cochlear implants for children and adults.

Pamela Souza, Ph.D., Northwestern University, School of Communication, will present on improving audibility with hearing aids and/or cochlear implants as the necessary foundation for improving speech perception and comprehension.
A Parent, Seizing the Opportunity of the AG Bell Convention

By Meredith K. Sugar, Esq.

When I think of my son Jonah’s upcoming 8th birthday and the amazing journey my family has taken with him related to his hearing loss, I can think of few moments more impactful to Jonah’s success than the AG Bell biannual convention.

We attended our first convention in 2006, in Pittsburgh, just months after Jonah’s birth and his diagnosis of severe-to-profound hearing loss. The months following his diagnosis were riddled with confusion and anxiety. It was a period of searching for any and all information we could find on deafness. It was a time of ENTs, surgeons, audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

We often researched online late into the night, downloading articles from all over the world, earnestly trying to gain knowledge about this new world into which we had found ourselves overnight. We were absolutely desperate for information about hearing loss and our questions kept piling up. What did this diagnosis mean for Jonah’s future? What did these professionals exactly mean when they informed us that Jonah could learn to listen and speak, and how could we go about achieving that outcome? Who would help me seek a cochlear implant, what kind, from whom, how? Our questions were endless.

So it’s no surprise that, when I learned that the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was putting on a convention just hours from our home, I packed up my three sons—ages 3, 2 and newborn at the time—to drive from Columbus to Pittsburgh. Hearing was putting on a convention just hours from our home, I packed up my three sons—ages 3, 2 and newborn at the time—to drive from Columbus to Pittsburgh. The exhibit hall who stuck around after the lights should have been turned off, to answer my questions of why and how and what we need to do. Every one of these people taught me about this community of ours and the deep, unbreakable ties that bind us all together.

As I walked down the exhibit hall with Jonah in his Baby Bjorn, I met well-known listening and spoken language professionals—experts in their field—whom I’d only “met” through reading their articles and research studies. Now, these same professionals handed my son and his brothers bags of popcorn and asked about our story. The cochlear implant booth representatives showed me how hands-on this thing called a cochlear implant was. The hearing aid professionals checked my son’s ear molds. The speech-language professionals training for their certifications in auditory-verbal practice held my baby so I could talk to their colleagues about where I could find qualified professionals for my son. Deaf adults came up to me and told me their stories and assured me that Jonah would listen and talk as they did. Moms exchanged phone numbers and play group information for areas all over the country.

I left the convention armed not only with bags of information and notes from the courses and sessions at which I’d learned so much. I left with an arsenal of people who cared—parents, doctors, audiologists, speech-language pathologists—experts on every kind of support I sought. Jonah and I continue to correspond with and talk to these amazing folks to this day and we hope to for the rest of our lives.

In addition to all the sessions and learning labs, you will find that the Research Symposium will offer the most cutting-edge research that a parent could want, “translated” so that ordinary parents looking for the latest information can understand it and take advantage of it for their child’s education.

The social events will provide both parents and their children with the chance to feel that they are not alone, that every tear that rolls down the cheek and every smile that cracks is one that is shared by a hopeful and supportive community. The exhibit hall will be stocked with more nuggets of information on hearing loss and listening and spoken language than any other place on the planet could ever be. The friendly and generous atmosphere will leave your heart full of appreciation and your spirit uplifted with hope for listened and spoken language.

As I reflect on attending our first AG Bell convention in 2006, I realize that it was not only important for my family that we did so, it was simply critical.

I equipped us with the information to have Jonah receive simultaneous bilateral cochlear implants at 11 months of age. The convention is a large part of the reason that Jonah now talks with perfect speech and hears a pin drop in the room. It contributed to him reading years above his grade level and hearing the secrets whispered to him by his brothers. It is one of the main reasons why, upon Jonah’s mainstreaming in the first grade last year, and being told that he no longer needed speech services, his reply was, “Thank you for my magic ears.”

Now that Jonah and his siblings are old enough to understand what the conventions entail, they are beyond excited to attend each of them, to see the children with the “magic ears” just like Jonah’s. We return every two years and we leave each time with happy, overflowing hearts at the gift we’ve been given—the gift of sound—and the tremendous efforts and contributions of the parents, families, professionals, deaf adults and children in achieving these amazing results.

After that 2006 convention, I don’t think the smile wore off my face for the entire three-hour drive home. For it was then that I knew my son would be just fine. In fact, he would be happy. He would thrive. He would hear us all. And he would talk right back to us. © The author and her family at the 2012 AG Bell Convention in Scottsdale, Ariz.

I walked into the convention and it was like a light got turned on in a dark room. I immediately was surrounded by the most qualified hearing loss professionals in the world. Families and children just like mine. Deaf adults thriving in the real world. They were all there, giving me tremendous hope for my son’s future. Not only did the convention equip my family with invaluable knowledge on hearing loss, but the community of people we came to know was an absolute gift. It went beyond words in an article or pictures of the ear’s cochlea on my computer screen. I met moms and dads who shared their journey with me in the exhibit hall, parents who had the same questions, fears and challenges, and who were not afraid to cry with me and lend me a shoulder to lean on or give me a warm hug that said, “I know what you are going through.”

I will be forever thankful to all the families we met, the children with hearing loss talking back and forth, the professionals who so selflessly answered question after question, the exhibitors in
Getting Ready for My Seventh Convention: My AG Bell Convention Life

By Paige Schmidenger Arbeiter

S ix AG Bell conventions and counting! Philadelphia, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Orlando and Scottsdale—every two years, I happily pack my bags and head to this amazing gathering of people with hearing loss who listen and talk to connect with friends, learn and have fun. I come away, each time, filled with new appreciation for who I am and what I can be.

I was 6 years old when I went to my first convention. My parents and I drove to Philadelphia, Pa., and stayed with friends. I toured Philly and saw the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. I was also interested in doing when I was older. I knew this was something I would be interested in when I was older.

My second convention was in St. Louis, Mo. This time, we took a train from New York’s Penn Station, through Chicago, and on to St. Louis. The convention took place right near the St. Louis Gateway Arch, which was incredible! For the first time, I was enrolled in the children’s program—an unforgettable weekend filled with adventure, laughter and new friends. I went to the Cardinals baseball game with a group of new friends and we all wore our AG Bell convention t-shirts. I even remember going to the St. Louis City Museum and riding down the indoor slides with my principal, Kathleen Treni! For my third convention, we drove to Pittsburgh, Pa. We visited the sports museum, the Heinz ketchup factory and ate dinner at Lidia Bastianich’s restaurant (the Food Network star). I saw many of my friends from the previous two conventions. For the first time, I noticed the teen group known as LOFT and wondered what it was. It turned out to be the Leadership Opportunities for Teens program that AG Bell organizes for high school students who are deaf and hard of hearing and use listening and spoken language as their primary mode of communication. I learned that this four-day sleep-away program is designed for teens with hearing loss to develop leadership and self-advocacy skills to thrive and succeed later in life. I knew this was something I would be interested in doing when I was older.

My fourth convention in Milwaukee, Wisc., was memorable because this is where I first played Wii at the older children’s program. We went to some great restaurants, including one where I ate the best German pretzels in the whole world. We also visited the Safe House, where we all pretended to be spies and had to find our way out through a secret passageway. I made new great friends—Tara, Leslie, Sydney and Patrick—and visited the Milwaukee Art Museum with some of them. Although I knew I would keep in touch with all my friends through Facebook, it is invaluable to see them and interact with them in person. As soon as I left the convention, I began thinking about seeing them at the next convention in two years.

ORLANDO in 2010! I had visited Mickey Mouse many times, but I knew this convention would be special and I wasn’t disappointed. I met up with my friends and we spent every day together, visiting a great arcade and Sea World.

Our families spent time together as well and it felt like no time had passed at all—we just picked up where we left off two years earlier. The Orlando convention was the first time my mom and dad worked as volunteers to help at the sessions.

After the convention, my family met with my friend Sam and his mom and we all spent another eight days at the Walt Disney World Resort. For the July 4 Independence Day holiday, we went to the resort’s Epcot Theme Park with the most amazing fireworks—I thought I lost my hearing again while wearing my cochlear implant!

At the 2012 convention in Scottsdale, Ariz., I experienced it all—the 114-degree searing heat, the water misters on the streets, the dust storms, the caciques, Frank Lloyd Wright’s home, Taliesin West. Another unforgettable convention! This time, I brought two of my friends from New Jersey with me—Rebecca and Cheryl. It was their first time at an AG Bell convention and they both loved it! I met up with old friends and made many new ones. I attended some of the sessions for the first time and found a whole track dedicated to older teens like me and my friends. I was also accepted into the LOFT program at the last minute, but our plans to visit the Grand Canyon afterwards were already set.

In July 2013, I flew to Los Angeles, Calif., on my own and finally participated in LOFT! For five days, I9 other teenagers and I learned what it means to be a leader. We worked on teamwork and teambuilding and how best to communicate with others (including self-advocacy). We learned what resources are available to help us in everyday life. Our group developed and facilitated a two-and-a-half-hour “Teens and Tweens” program for middle school students who are deaf and hard of hearing and their parents, where I spoke about how CART (Communication Access Real-time Translation) helps me in school. We also worked on a variety of teambuilding activities with them.

One of the most unusual experiences I had during LOFT was on a field trip to “iFLY” at Universal Studios. Trying to communicate while it feels like you’re dropping out of the sky was amazing! Our counselors were all AG Bell members who are adults living with hearing loss and two of them are audiologists! Best of all, I made many new friends.

Now, I can’t wait for Orlando in June 2014—it will be my seventh convention! I plan to learn more about my future career as an audiologist by attending some of the sessions and to catch up with all my friends, including my fellow LOFTees. My trips at the end of June on even years are set for the rest of my life! Will you join me?
Please print my badge to read:

FIRST NAME
LAST NAME
BADGE NAME

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION

CITY
STATE/PROVINCE
COUNTRY

Please print my spouse or family member’s badge to read:

FIRST NAME
LAST NAME
BADGE NAME

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION

CITY
STATE/PROVINCE
COUNTRY

2. Mailing Address

STREET ADDRESS

CITY
STATE/PROVINCE
COUNTRY

3. Communication Access

All convention educational sessions and pre-convention workshops will be real-time captioned. Oral, Cued Speech and ASL interpreting services will be provided upon request and as resources are available. Deadline for requests is May 14, 2014.

Please indicate your preference below:

☐ ASL INTERPRETER
☐ ORAL INTERPRETER
☐ CUED SPEECH TRANSLITERATOR

4. Dietary Restrictions

☐ GLUTEN FREE
☐ VEGETARIAN
☐ KOSHER
☐ OTHER

☐ Please contact AG Bell at registrar@agbell.org no later than June 4, 2014 to specify.

5. Registration Fees

Early Bird ends April 16 | Regular April 17–June 16

Professional AG Bell Member (includes CEUs)

☐ EARLY BIRD $310 ☐ REGULAR $410 ☐ ONSITE $450

Professional Non-member (includes CEUs and 1 year professional membership)

☐ EARLY BIRD $410 ☐ REGULAR $480 ☐ ONSITE $530

Non-professional Member (includes up to two badges per registration)

☐ EARLY BIRD $350 ☐ REGULAR $430 ☐ ONSITE $490

Non-professional Non-member (includes up to two badges per registration)

☐ EARLY BIRD $310 ☐ REGULAR $410 ☐ ONSITE $450

☐ Student (19 years and up) $200

One-Day (select a day) $200

☐ SATURDAY ☐ SUNDAY

☐ Teen Pass (ages 10–17 years) $50

6. Pre-Convention Workshops

You are responsible for any scheduling conflicts. Please fill out this section carefully.

Thursday, June 26, 8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
☐ BRIDGING GAPS: CONTINUOUS LEARNING MODEL
☐ TOMORROW’S MAGIC: TODAY’S LEARNING
☐ IT’S NOT FINE; IT’S NOT OK

Thursday, June 26, 1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
☐ REAL-TIME EMBEDDED COACHING
☐ DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY
☐ THEORY OF MIND & PRAGMATICS

Friday, June 27, 8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
☐ FACILITATING CHANGE/MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING
☐ HANDS-ON APPS AND THE IPAD
☐ TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE THROUGH MENTORING

HOME SUPPORT: LEAVE THE TOYS IN THE CAR

DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

REAL-TIME EMBEDDED COACHING

TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE THROUGH MENTORING

HANDS-ON APPS AND THE IPAD

7. Other Events

Dana Goldstein Mixer (RSVP required)

FRIDAY, JUNE 27
3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

LOFT Reunion Lunch

SATURDAY, JUNE 28
12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

Happy Hour

SATURDAY, JUNE 28
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Club Volta

SATURDAY, JUNE 28
3:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

Breakfast with Friends

SUNDAY, JUNE 29
7:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Cut-off date for registration is June 5.

Total amount enclosed: $25

Payment please enter the total calculated amount from all of the above entries. Fees are payable in U.S. dollars only. Please make checks payable to Alexander Graham Bell Association.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $25

CHARGE MY
☐ OR
☐ VISA
☐ MASTERCARD
☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD NUMBER
EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME INCLUDED ON THE SHARED ATTENDEE LIST.

CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT EXHIBITOR-RELATED MAILINGS.

AG Bell exhibitors and registrants may receive your mailing address in advance of the convention.

If you do not want to receive exhibitor-related mailings, please check the box above.

AG Bell exhibitors and registrants may receive your mailing address in advance of the convention.

If you do not want your name included on the shared attendee list, please check the box above.

Please contact AG Bell at registrar@agbell.org no later than June 4, 2014 to specify.

Four Ways to Register!

• Online at ListeningandSpokenLanguage.org/2014Convention
• Fax completed registration form and payment to 202-337-4314
• Mail registration form to AG Bell at 2014 AG Bell Convention, P.O. Box 17487, Baltimore, MD 21297-1487
• Email completed registration form to registrar@agbell.org

All registrations must be received by June 16, 2014.

Payment information must be included in order for your registration to be processed.

PRINTED FROM LISTENINGANDSPOKENLANGUAGE.ORG/2014CONVENTION

January/February 2014

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Children's Program Registration Form

1. **Parent/Legal Guardian Information**
   - **First & Last Name**
   - **First Name or Nickname for Badge**

2. **Child Information**
   - **Child #1**
     - **First Name**
     - **Last Name**
     - **Age**
     - **Gender**
     - **Shirt Size**
     - **Allergies**
     - **Medical Information**
   - **Child #2**
     - **First Name**
     - **Last Name**
     - **Age**
     - **Gender**
     - **Shirt Size**
     - **Allergies**
     - **Medical Information**

3. **Refund/Cancellation Policy**
   - Full refunds are available for AG Bell participants registered prior to May 15, 2014. After this date, refunds are available only with a $50 administrative fee. Refunds for the children's program will only be made if the child's dietary restriction is more severe or restrictive than the options listed. Refunds must be requested via email with forms to collect additional required information such as medical information.

4. **Payment**
   - Please use the total calculated amount from the “Total Due” section below. Fees are payable in U.S. dollars only. Please make checks payable to Alexander Graham Bell Association.

5. **Credit Card Information**
   - **Credit Card Number**
   - **Expiration Date**
   - **Security Code**
   - **Billing Address**

**DIRECTORY OF SERVICES**

**California**
- Echo Center/Echo Horizon School, 3430 McManus Ave, Calver City, CA 90272 • 310-838-2442 (voice) • 310-838-0479 (fax) • 310-202-7017 (toll free) • visiha@echohorizon.org (email) • www.echohorizon.org (website) • Vicki Ishida, Echo Center Director. Private elementary school incorporating an auditory/oral mainstream program for students who deaf or hard of hearing. Daily support provided by credentialed DHH teachers in speech, language, auditory skills and academic follow-up.
- HEAR Center, 101 East Del Mar Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91106 • 626-796-2016 (voice) • 626-796-2320 (fax) • Specializing in audiological services for all ages. Auditory-Verbal individual therapy, birth to 21 years.
- HEAR to Talk, 547 North June Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004 • 323-464-5040 (voice) • Sylvia@hear2talk.com (email) • www.hear2talk.com (website)
  - M.S.C., C.D.C., Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist, LISL Cert. AVT, Auditory Rehabilitation, California NPA Certified.
  - Trained by Dr. Ling. Extensive expertise with cochlear implants and hearing aids.

**Colorado**
- Rosie's Ranch: Ride! Listen! Speak! 303-257-5943 or 720-851-0927 • www. rosieranch.com • RosieRanch.com • Red Chronister, Director: To provide a family-centered atmosphere where children with hearing loss encounter oral language challenges and can expand their listening, verbal and reading skills by engaging in activities with horses, under the guidance of a highly trained and qualified staff. Our programs: Mom and Tot: A 90-minute patent and tot group pony activity; ages 1-5. Pony Camp: Daily riding and camp activities; ages 6-13. Saturday Riding: For riders of all skill levels, ages 6-16.
  - Out of state families welcome to experience ranch life; accommodations will be arranged!
Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech provides children who are deaf and/or hard of hearing from infancy to early elementary school age. Children receive language-rich lessons and highly individualized literacy instruction in a nurturing environment. Teachers and staff work closely with parents to instill the knowledge and confidence children need to reach their full potential. Early intervention programs, audiological support services, auditory-verbal therapy, mainstreaming opportunities and independent education evaluations. Established in 1938.

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech provides children ages 15 months-12 who are deaf or hard of hearing or have other communication challenges in a mainstream environment with hearing peers. Teachers of Deaf/English Language Pathologist / Reading Specialist/Classroom Teachers emphasize language development and literacy using Cued Speech. Early Intervention Services available to children under 3.

AHEI, a training center for Cued Speech, assists parents, educators, or advocates in verbal language development for children with language delays or who do not yet substantially benefit from auditory technology.

The Auditory-Verbal Center, Inc. (AVC) is a premier provider of comprehensive Auditory-Verbal and Audiological Services to infants, children, adults, and their families. Through the auditory verbal approach, we teach children with mild hearing loss or profound deafness to listen and speak. AVC offers listening and spoken language therapy for toddler and preschool-aged children.

AUDITORY-VERBAL CENTERIC.A.-Atlanta,
Macon, Teletherapy—1901
Boulevard, Suite 20, Atlanta, GA 30345
OFFICE: 404-633-8911
FAX: 404-633-6403
EMAIL: Listen@avcenter.org
(website) • www.avcenter.org
The Auditory-Verbal Center, Inc. (AVC) is a premier provider of comprehensive Auditory-Verbal and Audiological Services to infants, children, adults, and their families. Through the auditory verbal approach, we teach children with mild hearing loss or profound deafness to listen and speak. AVC offers listening and spoken language therapy for toddler and preschool-aged children.

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Don’t Throw Out Your Old Hearing Aids
All Hearing Aids REPAIRED $22
(6 month guarantee)
Many hearing aid dispensers are reluctant to repair older hearing aids, preferring to sell newer, more sophisticated technology. However, almost ALL hearing aids can be repaired and restored to their original factory condition.

A container especially designed for mailing hearing aids is available on request.

In order to keep our costs down we do not accept credit cards so we can pass the savings on to you.

HAL FISHBEIN
561-470-2337
1050 Rexford C, Boca Raton, FL 33434
hal.fishbein@comcast.net
Visit www.halfishbein.com

Directory of Services

Florida
Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech/Jacksonville, 9885 Old St. Augustine Road, Suite 7, Jacksonville, FL 32257 • 904-880-9880 • info@clarke schools.org • www.clarke.edu • Alexia Demisco, MS, CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVEd. and Cynthia Robinson, M.Ed, C.DEd, LSLS Cert. AVEd, Co-Directors. A member of the Option Schools network, Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech provides children who are deaf and hard of hearing with the listening, learning and spoken language skills they need to succeed. Comprehensive listening and spoken language programs prepare students for success in mainstream schools.

Services include early intervention, toddler, preschool, pre-K, kindergarten, parent support, cochlear implant habilitation, and mainstream support. Summer Listening and Spoken Language Program provides additional spoken language therapy for toddler and preschool-aged children.

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech has locations in Boston, Bryn Mawr, Jacksonville, New York City, Northampton and Philadelphia.

Georgia
Atlanta Speech School—Katherine Hamm Center, 3560 Northlake Parkway, NW Atlanta, GA 30327 • 404-231-5332
cell: 404-266-2175 (fax) • scar@atlspsch.org (email) • www.atlantaspesch.org (website). A Listening and Spoken Language program serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing from infancy to early elementary school age.

Services include early intervention, toddler, preschool, pre-K, kindergarten, parent support, cochlear implant habilitation, and mainstream support. Summer Listening and Spoken Language Program provides additional spoken language therapy for toddler and preschool-aged children.

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech has locations in Boston, Bryn Mawr, Jacksonville, New York City, Northampton and Philadelphia.

Illinois
Alexander Graham Bell Montessori School (AGBMS) and Alternatives in Education for the Hearing Impaired (AEHI), www.agbms.org • info@agbms.org • email (phone) • 847-450-5490 (fax) • 847-450-5493 (phone) • 9300 Capital Drive Woodbridge, IL 60095 • AGBMS is a Montessori school educating children ages 15 months-12 who are deaf or hard of hearing or have other communication challenges in a mainstream environment with hearing peers. Teachers of Deaf/English Language Pathologist /Reading Specialist/Classroom Teachers emphasize language development and literacy using Cued Speech. Early Intervention Services available to children under 3.

AEHI, a training center for Cued Speech, assists parents, educators, or advocates in verbal language development for children with language delays or who do not yet substantially benefit from auditory technology.


Indiana
St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf–Indianapolis, 932 Waldemar Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268 • (317) 471-8900 (voice) • (317) 471-8627 (fax) • www.sjid.org; touellette@sjid.org (email) • Teri Touellette, M.S. Ed., LSLS Cert AVEd, Director. St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf–Indianapolis, a campus of the St. Joseph Institute system, serves children with hearing loss, birth to age six. Listening and Spoken Language Programs include early intervention, toddler and pre-kindergarten classes, cochlear implant rehabilitation, mainstream therapy and consultation and daily speech therapy. Challenging speech, academic programs and personal development are offered in a nurturing environment. (See Missouri for other campus information).

Massachusetts
Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech/Boston, 1 Whitman Road, Canton, MA 02021 • 781-821-3499 (voice) • 781-821-3900 (phone) • info@clarke.edu • www.clarke.edu • Barbara Hecht, Ph.D., Director. A member of the School Community School network, Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech provides children who are deaf and hard of hearing with the listening, learning and spoken language skills they need to succeed. Comprehensive listening and spoken language programs prepare students for success in mainstream schools.

Services include early intervention, preschool, kindergarden, speech and language services, parent support, cochlear implant habilitation, and an extensive mainstream services program (intervention and consulting). Children and families come to our campus from throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, Maine and New Hampshire for services. Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech has locations in Boston, Bryn Mawr, Jacksonville, New York City, Northampton and Philadelphia.

Maryland
The Hearing and Speech Agency’s Auditory/Oral Program Little Ears, 5900 Metro Drive, Baltimore, MD 21225 • (voice) 410-316-6700 • (toll) 410-318-0759 • Email: hasa@hasa.org • Website: www.hasa.org • Jill Berce, Educational Director; Olga Polites, Clinical Director; Esm Medley, Teacher of the Deaf. Auditory/Oral education and therapy program for infants and young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Early intervention services are available for children birth to age 3 and a preschool program for children ages 3 through 5. Cheerful, spacious, state-of-the-art classrooms located in Gateway School are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. Services include audiological, speech-language therapy, family education and support. Applications are accepted year-round. Financial aid available.

Minnesota
Northwest Metro #816 Auditory/Oral Program, 5900 Metro Drive, Baltimore, MD 21225 • 410-316-6700 • Email: hasa@hasa.org • Website: www.hasa.org • Jill Berce, Educational Director; Olga Polites, Clinical Director; Esm Medley, Teacher of the Deaf. Auditory/Oral education and therapy program for infants and young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Early intervention services are available for children birth to age 3 and a preschool program for children ages 3 through 5. Cheerful, spacious, state-of-the-art classrooms located in Gateway School are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. Services include audiological, speech-language therapy, family education and support. Applications are accepted year-round. Financial aid available.
DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

Mississippi

DoBard School for Language Disorders, The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive #5235, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 • 601-586-2522 (voice) • dborah@usm.edu (email) • www.usm.edu/dobard • Maureen K. Martin, Ph. D., CCC-SLP, CID, CALT, Director. The DoBard School for Language Disorders is a clinical division of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at The University of Southern Mississippi. The school serves children from birth to age 13 in its state-of-the-art facility. Working collaboratively with 20 public school districts, the school specializes in creating language disorders, learning disabilities/dyslexia and speech disorders, such as apraxia, through its non-granted, 13-month program. “The DoBard Association Method,” an expanded and refined version of The Association Method, is the basis of the curriculum. Comprehensive evaluations, individual therapy, audiological services and professional development programs also are available. AAE/NDAAAD.

Magnolia Speech School, Inc., 735 Flag Chapel Road, Jackson, MS 39209-601, 922-5530 (voice), 601-922-5534 (fax) –anne.sullivan@magnoliaspeechschool.org–Anne Sullivan, M.D. Executive Director. Magnolia Speech School serves children with hearing loss and/or severe speech and language disorders. Listening and Spoken Language instruction/therapy is offered to students 0 to 12 in a home-based early intervention program of change, in classroom settings and in the Hackett Bower Clinic (full educational audiological services, speech pathology and occupational therapy). Assessments and orientation are also offered to the community through the Clinic.

Missouri

CID–Central Institute for the Deaf, 825 S. Taylor Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63101 • 314-977-0333 (voice) • 314-977-0037 (tty) • info@summitci.org (email) • Patricia Brumm, Program Director. The Auditory/oral Early Intervention and Preschool Program is an approved provider of early intervention and preschool services to children age birth-3 years old from New York City and Westchester County. Clarke’s New York campus is located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and serves children age birth-5 years old from New York City and Westchester County. Clarke is an approved provider of audiology, hearing evaluations and services, speech, occupational and physical therapy, and pre-school services (self-contained and integrated). There are typically little or no out of pocket expenses for families attending Clarke New York. Our expert staff includes teachers of children with hearing loss and their families. Established in 1876, RSD provides continuing education courses for professionals to maintain certification, with accreditation by American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). American Academy of Audiology (AAA), and The AC Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language. Free family and parent programs for children with hearing loss. CHI’s mission is to achieve the best possible outcome for children with hearing loss by caring for their clinical needs, educating the professionals that work with them, and providing their parents the pertinent information needed for in-home success.

New York

Auditory/oral School of New York, 3201 Avenue M, Brooklyn, NY 11234 • 718-531-1800 (voice) • 718-421-5395 (fax) • info@summitci.org (email) • Patricia Brumm, Program Director. The Auditory/oral Early Intervention and Preschool Program is an approved provider of early intervention and preschool services to children age birth-3 years old from New York City and Westchester County. Clarke’s New York campus is located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and serves children age birth-5 years old from New York City and Westchester County. Clarke is an approved provider of audiology, hearing evaluations and services, speech, occupational and physical therapy, and pre-school services (self-contained and integrated). There are typically little or no out of pocket expenses for families attending Clarke New York. Our expert staff includes teachers of children with hearing loss and their families. Established in 1876, RSD provides continuing education courses for professionals to maintain certification, with accreditation by American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). American Academy of Audiology (AAA), and The AC Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language. Free family and parent programs for children with hearing loss. CHI’s mission is to achieve the best possible outcome for children with hearing loss by caring for their clinical needs, educating the professionals that work with them, and providing their parents the pertinent information needed for in-home success.

North Carolina

BEGINNINGS For Parents of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc., 502 Jefferson Street, Suite 110, PO Box 17646, Raleigh, NC 27605, 919-715-4092 (voice), 919-715-4093 (fax) – Raleigh@ncbegin.org (email) – Joni Alberg, Executive Director. BEGINNINGS provides emotional support, unbiased information, and technical assistance to parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, dead parents with hearing loss, and families of those children. BEGINNINGS assists parents of children from birth through age 21 by providing information and support that will empower them as informed decision makers, helping them access the services they need for their child, and promoting the importance of early intervention and other educational programs. BEGINNINGS believes that given accurate, objective information about hearing loss, parents can make sound decisions for their child about educational placement, communication methodology, and related service needs.

South Carolina

The Children’s Hearing Institute, 380 Second Avenue at 22nd Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10011 • 606-438-7819 (voice). Educational Outreach Program provides continuing education courses for professionals to maintain certification, with accreditation by American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). American Academy of Audiology (AAA), and The AC Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language. Free family and parent programs for children with hearing loss. CHI’s mission is to achieve the best possible outcome for children with hearing loss by caring for their clinical needs, educating the professionals that work with them, and providing their parents the pertinent information needed for in-home success.

MO

The Moog Center for Deaf Education, 12300 South Forty Drive, St. Louis, MO 63141 • 314-692-7172 (voice) • 314-692- 6004 (fax) • www.moogcenter.org–Betty Moog Brooks, Executive Director. Betty Moog Brooks, Executive Director. Moog Center services provided to children who are deaf and hard of hearing from birth to age 22. program includes the Family School (birth to 3), School (3-5 years), Auditory (individual and cochlear implant programming), mainstream services, educational evaluations, parent education and support groups, professional workshops, teacher education, and student teacher placements. The Moog Center for Deaf Education is a Certified Moog Program.

St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf–St. Louis, 1809 Clarkson Road, Chesterfield, MO 63007 • 314-532-3211 (voice/TYY) • www.sjid.org – An independent, Catholic school serving children with hearing loss birth through the eighth grade. Listening and Spoken Language programs include early intervention, toddler and preschool classes, K-8th grade, hear in the therapy, audiology, mainstream evaluations, consultation and summer school. Challenging speaking, academic programs and personal development are offered in a supportive environment. ISACS accredited. Approved private agency of Missouri Department of Education and Illinois Department of Education. (See Indiana for other campus information)

New Jersey

Hill of Bergen County Special Services, Mailand Park School District, 41 E. Center Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432 • Contact Kathleen Treni, Principal. Koukoumbas Karayianis, Director. Hill of Bergen is an integrated, comprehensive pre-K through sixth grade auditory oral program. Services include AV Therapy, Cochlear Implant Habilitation, Parent Education and Audiology services. STARS Early Intervention for babies, 0 to 3. Toddler, Baby and Me groups available. SOUND SOLUTIONS consulting teacher services for families. Hill of Bergen is an approved provider of early intervention, hearing evaluations and services, speech, group and individual therapy. Transition Program is to develop students’ ability to succeed. Comprehensive listening and spoken language programs prepare students for mainstreaming.

Clarke School for Hearing and Speech/New York, 80 East Avenue New, York, NY 10028 • 212-585-3950 • info@clarke.edu (email) • Pnina Bravmann, Program Director. The Auditory/oral Early Intervention and Preschool Program is an approved provider of early intervention and preschool services to children age birth-3 years old from New York City and Westchester County. Clarke is an approved provider of audiology, hearing evaluations and services, speech, occupational and physical therapy, and pre-school services (self-contained and integrated). There are typically little or no out of pocket expenses for families attending Clarke New York. Our expert staff includes teachers of children with hearing loss and their families. Established in 1876, RSD provides continuing education courses for professionals to maintain certification, with accreditation by American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). American Academy of Audiology (AAA), and The AC Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language. Free family and parent programs for children with hearing loss. CHI’s mission is to achieve the best possible outcome for children with hearing loss by caring for their clinical needs, educating the professionals that work with them, and providing their parents the pertinent information needed for in-home success.

Rochester School for the Deaf, 145 St. Paul Street, Rochester, NY 14621 • 585-544-1240 (voice/TYY) • 866- 285-8830 (telephone) • info@RSDeaf.org • www.RSDeaf.org – Harold Mold, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/CEO. Serving Western and Central New York State, the Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD) is an inclusive, bilingual school where children who are deaf or hard of hearing learn alongside their hearing peers in the families’ home. Established in 1876, RSD goes beyond and above all expectations to provide quality Pre-K through 12th grade academic programs, services and resources to ensure a satisfying and successful school experience for children with hearing loss.

Clarke School for Hearing and Speech has locations in Boston, Bryn Mawr, Jacksonville, New York City, Northampton and Philadelphia. Clarke School for the Deaf, 301 Smithtown Boulevard, Noyack, NY 11767 • 631-588-0530 (voice) • www.clarkeschools.org. Kenneth Masone, Superintendent. Offers Parent Infant/Toddler Program with teachers of the Deaf, Speech Therapy and ASL therapy. Transition Program into our Preschool Auditory-Oral Program. The primary focus of the Auditory-Oral Auditory Program is to develop students’ ability to “listen to learn” along with developing appropriate speech, language, and academic skills, this program offers intensive speech therapy services with a goal to mainstream students when they become school age. Additional services offered include: Music, Art, Library, OT, PT and Parent Support.

Mid Neck Manor School for the Deaf, 40 Fresh Mill Road, Mill Neck, NY 11756 • 516-922-4000 (voice). Mark R. Piwowarski Ph.D., Executive Director. State-supported school maintains Infant Toddler Program with focus on parent education and family support that includes listening and spoken language training by a speech therapist and TDD. Audiological services onsite. Auditory-oral preschool and kindergarten (ages 3-6) program serves students who are deaf or hard of hearing alongside peers with typical hearing. Curriculum addresses NYS standards as it promotes language development through auditoryoral methodology and a restrictive setting. Full time TDD, along with music, art, library, audiological services and therapies that include individual and group speech, occupational and physical family supports are available onsite. Certified Auditory Verbal Educators are on staff.

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DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

CASTLE- Center for Acquisition of Spoken Language Through Listening Enrichment, 5010 Fortunes Ridge Drive, Suite A, Chapel Hill, NC 27713 • 919-419-1428 (voice) • http://www.med.unc.edu/ earandhearing/castle (website) • CASTLE is a part of the UNC Ear & Hearing Center and the UNC Pediatric Cochlear Implant Team. Our mission is to provide a quality listening/spoken language program for children with hearing loss; empower parents as primary teachers and advocates, and train and coach clinicians in listening and spoken language. We offer toddler classes, preschool language groups, Auditory-Verbal parent sessions, and distance classes through UNC ENRACE. Hands-on training program for hearing-related professionals/University students.

Pennsylvania

Center for Childhood Communication at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, 3405 Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia 19104 • 215-590-5488 (voice) • 215-590-5361 (fax) • www.chop.edu/ccw (website). The CCC provides Audiology, Speech-Language and Cochlear Implant services and offers support through CATALYPHER, an interdisciplinary program including mental health and educational services for children with hearing loss and their families from time of diagnosis through transition into school-age services. In addition to serving families at our main campus in Philadelphia, satellite offices are located in Bucks County, Eatonton, King of Prussia, and Springfield, PA and in Voorhees, Mary Landung, and Princeton, NJ. Professional Preparation in Cochlear Implants (PPCI), a continuing education training program for teachers and speech-language pathologists, is also headquarterd at the CCC.

Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech/Pennsylvania, 135 South Roberts Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 • 610-525-9600 (voice) • info@clarkeschools.org • www.clarkeschools.org, Judith Sexton, MS, CED, LSLS Cert. AVEd, Director. A member of the Option Schools network, Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech provides children who are deaf or hard of hearing with the listening, learning, and social skills they need to succeed. Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech serves children in Pennsylvania and from Ohio and West Virginia. A State Approved Private School, most programs are tuition-free to approved students. DePaul School provides early intervention services for children (birth to age 5); a center-based toddler program (ages 15-36 months); a preschool program (ages 3-5) and a comprehensive academic program for children (ages 6-21). The DePaul School provides extensive diagnostic services including audiology, Auditory-Verbal and speech therapy, cochlear implant evaluation, mapping and habilitation, and occupational therapy, mainstreaming and parent support and education programs. The East End Oral School provides children with deafness/limited hearing with aural rehabilitation and education services in mainstream schools.

Services include early intervention, preschool, school, parent education, individual auditory speech and language services, cochlear implant habilitation for children and adults, audiological services, and mainstream services including individual teaching and consulting. Specifically trained staff includes LSLS Cert. AVEd and LSLS Cert. AVT professionals, teachers of the deaf, special educators, speech-language pathologists and a staff audiologist.

Dallas County Intermediate Unit # 25, Hearing and Language Programs, 200 Yale Avenue, Morton, PA 19070 • 610-938-9100 ext. 2277; 610-938-9860 (voice) • slykede@dcu.org (website) • Program Highlights: A publicly funded program for children with hearing loss in local schools. Serving children from birth through 21 years of age. Teachers of the deaf provide resource room support and itinerant hearing therapy throughout Dallas County, PA. Services also include audiology, speech therapy, cochlear implant habilitation (which includes LSLS Cert. AVT and LSLS Cert. AVEd), psychology and social work.

DePaul School for Hearing and Speech, 6228 Adler Street, Parma, PA 15202 • 412-424-1012 (voice) • 412-424-1096 (fax) • www.depaulfillinghearingandspeech.org (website) • mld@depaulfillinghearingandspeech.org (email) • Mimi Longhead, Early Childhood Coordinator. DePaul School is the only school in the western Pennsylvania tri-state region that provides Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) education to children who are deaf or hard of hearing. DePaul School serves children in Pennsylvania and from Ohio and West Virginia. A State Approved Private School, most programs are tuition-free to approved students. DePaul School provides early intervention services for children (birth to age 5); a center-based toddler program (ages 15-36 months); a preschool program (ages 3-5) and a comprehensive academic program for children (ages 6-21). The DePaul School provides extensive diagnostic services including audiology, Auditory-Verbal and speech therapy, cochlear implant evaluation, mapping and habilitation, and occupational therapy, mainstreaming and parent support and education programs. The East End Oral School provides children with deafness/limited hearing with aural rehabilitation and education services in mainstream schools.

South Carolina

The University of South Carolina Speech and Hearing Research Center, 1601 St. Julian Place, Columbia, SC, 29203-7774-2614 (voice) • 803-523-4114 (fax) • Center Director: Danielle Varnesole, danielle.mailbox@sc.edu. The center provides audiology services, speech-language therapy, adult aural (re)habilitation therapy, and Auditory-Verbal Therapy. Our audiology services include comprehensive diagnostic evaluations, hearing aid evaluations and services, and cochlear implant evaluations and programming. The University also provides a training program for AV therapy and cochlear implant management for professionals/university students. Additional contacts for the AVT or CI programs include Wendy Pott, CI Program Coordinator (803-777-2642), Melissa Hall (803-777-1698), Nikhil Herold-Burrows (803-777-2669), Gana Crosby-Quintana (803-777-2671), and Janny Claire Archer (803-777-1734).

Tennessee

Memphis Oral School for the Deaf, 7980 Poplar Avenue, Germantown, TN 38138 • 901-758-2288 (voice) • 901-531-6753 (fax) • www.mosdkids.org (website) • swartwade@mosdkids.org (email) • Teresa Schwartz, Executive Director. Services: Family Training Program (birth-age 8), Auditory/Oral Day School (ages 2-6). Audiological Testing, Hearing Aid Programming, Cochlear Implant Mapping and Therapy, Aural (Re)Habilitation, Speech-Language Therapy, Mainstream Service.

Texas

Callier Center for Communication Disorders/UT Dallas, Callier - Dallas Facility, 1960 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75235 • Main number: 214-905-3000 • Appointments: 214-905-3010. Callier- Richardson Facility: 811 Sengen Service Blvd., Richardson, TX 75080 • Main number: 972-885-3630 • Appointments: 972-885-3650 • calliercenter@utdallas.edu (email) • www.utdallas.edu/calliercenter. For half a century, the Callier Center has been dedicated to helping children and adults with speech, language and hearing disorders connect with the world. “We transform lives by providing leading-edge clinical services, conducting innovative research into new treatments and technologies, and training the next generation of caring clinical providers. Callier provides hearing services, Auditory-Verbal therapy, and speech-language pathology services for all ages. Audiology services include hearing evaluations, hearing aid dispensing, assistive devices, and audiological assessments. We are a partner of the Dallas Cochlear Implant Program, a joint enterprise among the Callier Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center and Children’s Medical Center. Callier specialists in cochlear implant evaluations and post-surgical treatments for children from birth to 18 years. Our nationally accredited Child Development Program serves children developing typically and allows for the inclusive education of children with hearing impairments.

The Center for Hearing and Speech, 3636 West Dallas, Houston, TX 77019 • 713-523-3633 (voice) • 713-874-1173 (TTY) • 713-523-8399 (fax) • info@centerhearingandspeech.org (website) • www.centerhearingandspeech.org (website) CHF serves children with hearing impairments from birth to 18 years. Services include: academic/aural preschool; Audiology Clinic providing comprehensive hearing evaluations, diagnostic ABR, hearing aid and FM evaluations and fittings, cochlear implant evaluations and follow-up mapping; Speech-Language Pathology Clinic providing: Parent-Infant therapy, Auditory-Verbal therapy, aural/play therapy; family support services. All services offered on sliding fee scale and many services offered in Spanish.

Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children, 603 E. Hildebrand Ave., San Antonio, TX 78212; 210-824-0579; fax 210-826-4346. Founded in 1947, Sunshine Cottage, a listening and spoken language school promoting early identification of hearing loss and subsequent intervention teaching children with hearing impairment (infants through high school.) State-of-the-art pediatric audiological services include hearing aid fitting, cochlear implant programming assessment of children maintenance of campus soundfield and FM equipment. Programs include the Sunshine Hearing Evaluation Center, Parent-Infant Program, Hearing Aid Loaner and Scholarship Programs, Educational Programs (pe-school through fifth grade on campus and in mainstream settings), Habilitative Services, Speech-Language Pathology, Counseling, and Assessment Services. Pre- and post-cochlear implant assessments and habilitation. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on Accreditation and the Accrediting Commission of Schools, International, and is a Texas Education Agency approved non-public school. For more information visit www.sunshinecottage.org

VOLTA VOICES • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

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Utah Sound Beginnings at Utah State University, 1000 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-1000 • 435-797-9235 (voice) • 435-797-7599 (fax) • soundbeginnings.usu.edu • taylortwentyone@usu.edu (email) • Stacy Wenz, MS, Sound Beginnings Program Coordinator • Kristina Blasing@usu.edu (email) • Kristina Blasing, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Listening and Spoken Language Graduate Program. A comprehensive listening and spoken language educational program serving children with hearing loss and their families from birth through age five; early intervention services include home- and center-based services, parent training, toddler group, pediatric audiology, tele-intervention and individual therapy for children in mainstream settings. The preschool, housed in an innovative lab school, provides classes and research opportunities focused on the development of listening and spoken language for deaf/hard-of-hearing children aged three through five, parent training, and mainstreaming opportunities. The Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education offers the interdisciplinary training program in Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, and Deaf Education that emphasizes listening and spoken language for young children with hearing loss. Sound Beginnings is a partner program of the Utah School for the Deaf and Blind.

Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB), 742 Harrison Boulevard, Ogden UT 84404 • 801-629-4712 (voice) • 801-629-4701 (TTY) • www.usdb.org (website). USDB is a state-funded program for children with hearing loss (birth through high school) serving students in various settings including local district courts and聋 educational and counseling services throughout the state. USDB language and communication options include Listening and Spoken Language. USDB has a comprehensive hearing healthcare program which includes an emphasis on hearing technology for optimal auditory access, pediatric audiological evaluations, and cochlear implant management. Services also include Early Intervention, full-day preschool and kindergarten, intensive day programs, and related services including speech/ language pathology and aural habilitation.

Dewis continued from page 48

classroom as I did inside the musty walls. Harvard was an incredibly diverse and stimulating experience. I had friends who came from all walks and circumstances of life, rich and poor, from places like Kuwait, California, Florida, Ohio and Wisconsin. I may not have appreciated it until after I graduated, anxious to leave the academic claustrophobia for sunny southern California upon the invasion of a former roommate who was not ready to let go. It is curious that listening and spoken language is not only about learning and asking for and accepting help and guidance when I need it, but also about teaching and helping and guiding others along their way.

There’s shorthand with us deaf adults that we don’t experience with anyone else, even our hearing partners and family members—and consequently, there’s a bond. It’s like finding your long-lost twin. We celebrate each other when we’re up, and we pick each other up when we’re down.

My friend Consuelo Gonzalez, who is deaf, once told me at an AG Bell convention: “It’s not easy for me to feel like the optimistic liability when we encounter new people and new situations.” I was speechless: she understood me completely.

Once, at a past AG Bell convention, a mother stopped me, hugged me, and thanked me for giving her hope, while bursting into tears. She had been so scared for her daughter when we met years earlier, and now her daughter was exceeding her expectations.

That is what the convention is about: giving hope along with the tools our parents and professionals need to make the hope a dream come true. It makes me feel like our collective efforts and appreciates the effects our collective efforts have on others.

The landscape of listening and spoken language has expanded and gained mainstream acceptance as a viable option for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. The work is still challenging and requires a significant commitment on the family’s part, but we are slowly but surely—LSLS professional—making the magic real for more and more families across the globe.

One thing has stayed the same over the years: every new parent is still scared and uncertain. And it is okay to be

much more in return. This is what informs my long and deep involvement with AG Bell. My fellow deaf friends and their families have all inspired me and continue to do so. The work that we all do, the challenges we’ve overcome, the failures we’ve experienced, and the successes we’ve enjoyed, both individually and as an organization, have all given me this perspective that while my parents, family and Beebe has worked to see that I reach my full potential, I am also one small part of this vibrant fabric that is our world. As much as I would love to think of it this way, it is not. There is no ‘it’ all around me. You are not okay to feel and be who you are, and we are here to help and empower you to become the person you are destined to be.

Our conventions have to have balance. There will always be new parents, professionals, and teenagers and young adults, and we must always make sure our conventions provide a place for these newcomers so that they can learn, get up to speed, and feel welcome into the fold. For our more seasoned members, we will be providing more advanced educational sessions and networking opportunities.

I believe 2014 will be the best convention yet because we have in place a strong team of staff, member volunteers and board members, all committed to providing a place for our families and professionals to develop the resources and connections needed to help our children succeed with listening and spoken language. It will be the best convention yet because we are not just about learning and networking, but also about celebrating and appreciating ourselves and our successes. It will be the best convention yet because we will have conversations about how we can work together toward children’s future. It will be the best convention yet because YOU will be there!

AG Bell’s mission of advancing listening and spoken language for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing comes alive in our children’s voices. The work that we all do, we do to help our children reach their potential, but listening and spoken language should be—and is—about more than just listening and spoken language. It has to be about helping our children with their socialization and negotiation skills so that when they venture, they never feel like an automatic liability, but an equal citizen in our world.
The AG Bell convention is my Mecca—it is the place I come to for inspiration, friendship and truth. It is a true honor to serve as the chair of an event that holds great meaning for so many of us.

If this will be your first convention, you are in for a life-changing treat. Don’t be shy. Don’t worry if you’re not able to take it all in. We’ll still be around after the circus leaves town. And when you return home with bags full of brochures, handouts and notes, you may feel overwhelmed and alone again, wondering where to begin. I can tell you where to begin: by calling or writing the new friends you made and picking up where you left off. The convention does not have to end on June 30, 2014; it only begins your journey.

If you are a returning attendee, do me a favor: if you see a new face, get up and introduce yourself. It just might be the parent or professional who, years down the road, will remember the hope you gave them.

I was born with a profound sensorineural hearing loss as a result of maternal rubella, which my mother contracted through her card club. In 1965, early intervention was certainly not a catchphrase, and I believe the early diagnosis and binaural fitting with hearing aids were critical to my later success.

It was a stroke of geographic luck that my family lived six blocks away from Helen Beebe’s office. Beebe had suggested that we start formal therapy when I turned 12 months, but in the interim would visit our home frequently and instruct my parents on how to babble and vocalize and stimulate my infant hearing. I was by far the youngest baby she had worked with, and the progress we made early on prompted her to revise her philosophy: no intervention could ever be too early, and from that point forward she began work with all her children as soon as possible.

Beebe taught me the value and importance of being an ambassador for listening and spoken language. I often went to her clinic to meet with visiting professionals and families. The hope that I saw in parents’ eyes and the recognition I saw in the children’s faces (I’m just like you!) made it impossible for me to turn down Beebe’s calls.

Attending Harvard University as an undergraduate was magical and scary. I left the safety and comfort of classmates who knew me and my needs for a large university that did not coddle its young, but it was a good learning experience, though I made some expensive mistakes.

I took Psychology 1 during my first semester, which at the time was taught by a prominent expert in child development who was one of the leading forces behind the development of Sesame Street. He also was a notorious mumbler. When I met with the professor to explain my situation, he said he couldn’t let me have access to his lecture notes because it would give me an unfair advantage over the other students.

I spent the next couple of years at Harvard wandering without much focus, but I learned as much outside of the Up Front on the Back Page

David Davis
2014 Convention Chair on the Upcoming Convention, Giving Hope, Remembering Beebe and Living a Full Life with Hearing Loss

Interview by Anna Karkovska McGlew, M.A.

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WE WANT YOU ON THE BACK PAGE!

Read the entire interview online on the Listening and Spoken Language Knowledge Center at ListeningandSpokenLanguage.org/BackPage. If you have stories to tell, experiences to share and a perspective on hearing loss for this column, please send an email to editor@agbell.org and tell us a bit about yourself.

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