Inside This Issue …
Universal Licensure: A Great Change for Virginia!
The Shadow of GERD on Lung Disease
Micro-Enterprise Update
Associations Thank Keynote Speaker Leon “Jigger” Sirois, The Stuttering Foundation’s “Favorite Unofficial Ambassador”

The Mission of CSAP is to:
1. provide leadership training for state Speech-Language-Hearing association presidents.
2. be a forum for collaboration and networking among these leaders.
3. promote communication of professional matters between state Speech-Language-Hearing Associations, ASHA and other related national professional organizations.

CSAP Vision
CSAP is the premier organization where state leaders meet to cultivate a unique culture of growth and knowledge through collaborative efforts.

CSAP is a related association of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Visit CSAP on the web www.csap.org

CSAP Sponsors

A Publication of
Council of State Speech-Language-Hearing Association Presidents

Save the Date for CSAP Fall 2014
Join us in sunny Orlando, Florida
Wednesday, November 19, 2014
Watch your email and the CSAP website, www.csap.org for more information.

Mississippi Receives an ASHA Audiology Grant

The Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association was awarded an ASHA grant to produce a PSA/video to inform consumers the dangers of going to untrained professionals for hearing “tests” and hearing aid fittings, as well as the dangers of using consumer-driven, self-administered “hearing tests” and purchasing “unregulated, un-programmed” hearing aids online.

Self-administered tests (IE – Iphone Apps, etc.) and many untrained professionals use air conduction pure tone only to “assess” hearing loss. Without a comprehensive test battery, there is no way to discern for certain the actual cause(s) of the hearing loss. Air conduction only gives the degree of hearing loss but will not tell us the type of hearing loss, or in which part of the ear the hearing loss may be located. It is vital that consumers receive a full battery of tests ranging from otoscopy and immittance testing to pure tone and speech audiometry in order to identify the cause of loss and know the best plan for treatment.

MSHA recognizes that there is an urgent need for increased awareness of MS consumers, legislators, and other stakeholders regarding the roles, credentials, and importance of audiologists in the appropriate evaluation and fitting of hearing aids including auditory rehabilitation and counseling regarding proper hearing aid fit and use. Therefore, MSHA sought to receive money to produce a Public Service Announcement and short informational video warning the consumers of the dangers of following a different route from going to their local audiologists. The video will inform them of the hearing test battery that is needed and advocate and explain how audiologists are the most qualified hearing experts to assess, diagnose and treat hearing loss (as well as other auditory problems). It will advocate for audiologists by explaining their level of training, their credentials and their expertise in the area of hearing and hearing loss/auditory disorders.

Edie Jones
Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association
EBS is dedicated to empowering clinicians to become leaders in their fields while providing the highest-quality services for families and communities around the world.

EBS began as a non-profit organization founded by speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and special education directors more than 30 years ago. We have remained the global leader of birth to 21 year-old programs and the largest provider of services for the pediatric population.

EBS empowers speech-language pathologists to become leaders in their field, while providing the highest-quality services for families and communities around the world. Our mission is to make a difference every day in every life we touch.

The support our Clinical Fellowship Program provides exceeds ASHA and state requirements for obtaining a Certificate of Clinical Competence and professional state license.

EBS provides a solid educational foundation for our team members through extensive training programs, University Outreaches, CEU events, and much more!

The EBS Scholarship and Grant Program was established to advance the careers of future leaders in our field. EBS has helped many individuals achieve their educational and professional goals to better serve populations worldwide.

800.578.7906
hr@ebshealthcare.com
www.ebshealthcare.com
Universal Licensure: A Great Change for Virginia

The Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV) announces that Virginia has now simplified the licensure process for our membership! Previously, there were two licensing agencies within the commonwealth: a Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) endorsement which allowed speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to work in the schools and a full license by the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (VBASLP) which permitted SLPs to work in any other setting. As a result, SLPs and consumers within the state and those new to Virginia often found themselves uncertain about which license was needed to practice and who was qualified to provide services in each setting. In addition, SHAV also heard from many of the SLPs who had been sanctioned for practicing without the appropriate license in Virginia. There were complaints from SHAV membership about the costs for those SLPs maintaining both licenses as well as frustration about the differing continuing education requirements between the systems.

Concerns for the membership, licensure fees, as well as consumer protection motivated SHAV to seek a legislative change. Legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly brought about this change in the state licensing regulations. Collaboration between SHAV, state agencies and the regulatory board was a crucial part of the process. SHAV attended many BASLP board meetings, disseminated information to and from members, and shared their questions and concerns with the VDOE and the VBASLP. SHAV wanted to be certain that the membership was well represented! The continual communication and partnership between all stakeholders allowed SHAV to actively address and clarify concerns regarding licensure changes.

SHAV’s Lobbyist, David Bailey, provided the organization with stellar guidance about how to get the legislation introduced into the General Assembly. SHAV then rallied members and promoted the need for universal licensure during Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in Richmond on January 20, 2014. Delegate Richard Anderson understood SHAV’s position, graciously supported our cause and then patroned House Bill 373 on SHAV’s behalf. The bill was then passed in the house and the senate and ultimately received the signature of approval from Governor, Terry McAuliffe.

Effective July 1, 2014, there will now only be one licensing entity for SLPs in Virginia, the VBASLP. Specific information and updates regarding the checklists and initial applications for a school SLP license and a full SLP license are available at http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/aud/. The VDOE shall no longer issue or renew licenses with an endorsement in speech-language pathology for school-based speech-language pathologists.

The collaboration efforts with the VDOE, the VBASLP and SHAV continue as these organizations all work to educate others throughout Virginia to address questions and concerns regarding the universal licensure. The VDOE has proactively spear-headed a state-wide educational program and training for the human resources departments of school systems. They have also provided two superintendent memos, created guidance information (including a video created with the VBASLP) outlining the specific enactment clauses, and also offer funding assistance to those school-based SLPs transitioning to the new license. This information is available on the VDOE website at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/disabilities/speech_language_impairment/.

The dynamic collaboration between SHAV and the state agencies: VDOE and the VBASLP resulted in beneficial licensure changes within the state. Universal Licensure will provide better consumer protection; simplify the licensure process, minimize licensure fees, and the continuing education requirements for SLPs in Virginia. Collaboration definitely made great things happen for SLPs in Virginia!

Wendy Pulliam, MS, CCC-SLP
President, Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia

Darlene Robke, MS, CCC-SLP
Vice President of Governmental and Professional Affairs, Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia
The Shadow of GERD on Lung Disease

This is offered as a “case report” and personal experience to encourage speech-language pathologists to be cognizant of the influence reflux has on our clients (and family) with swallowing disorders and recurrent pneumonias. During the 2013 summer, my husband nearly died secondary to progressive decline in his lung function. I share part of his story.

Larry has a significant medical history for lung disease. He experienced what has been described as “severe asthma” as a child. He ultimately “grew out of it” per his parents during his elementary school years. As a young adult, he was a smoker for nearly a decade without notable lung illness. In the 1980s, Larry was “gassed” while leveling silage in a silo on our farm. As corn cures, it produces a highly toxic gaseous by-product. He was wrongly informed that it was safer to go into the silo after three days (supposedly to permit the gas to dissipate out of the silo) rather than immediately following the silo fill. This resulted in a severe bilateral pneumonia from which he recovered, but that appeared to open the asthma “wound” as he subsequently developed pneumonia each winter and experienced exercise-induced asthma requiring inhaler management. It is important to note that throughout his life Larry has been an athlete. He played football in high school and became an avid runner for several decades until knee and heel injuries slowed the number of miles he could tolerate per week. He then moved to biking and swimming, again until a shoulder injury nagged him, resulting in expanding his current passion, golf – a much less active sport with regard to influencing lung capacity.

As he has decreased his aerobic activity, his weight has increased. He has gained approximately 25 pounds in the past five years. This is not to say he is obese, simply not at his “fighting weight.” As his wife, I recognized increased symptoms of GERD; he belches frequently following meals, has increased bad breath, vocal hoarseness, daily voice fatigue and complains of heartburn. He was prescribed Prilosec, which he took as needed. I also noted increased snoring, coughing during sleep and episodes of sleep apnea. He also began to have 1-2 glasses of red wine in the evenings “for (his) heart.” Also important to note is that Larry’s father died of cancer that developed from Barrett’s esophagus.

As a dutiful wife, I began to nag him when I noted chronic episodes of congestion and coughing. Larry would call his primary physician who would prescribe a quick fix for the asthma symptoms, symptoms would improve and he would continue his same behaviors. Larry could not understand any possible relationship between reflux and his lung status despite my informed nagging. The slope became very slippery in June 2013. His sensitivity to asthma triggers increased significantly; his cough was chronic rather than episodic. He was coming home early from work to sleep. Perhaps, most frightening (at least to him), he was not able to complete 18 holes of golf. The decline was occurring even with the usual prednisone course. He ultimately went for a pulmonology consult and was quickly recommended for a pulmonoscopy. Following the procedure, the pulmonologist described Larry’s lungs as the “worst pair of lungs” she had seen in her many years of practice. She was unable to vacuum his lungs because she could not see, the tissue was inflamed and breaking away. A round of IV antibiotics and steroids were prescribed for a three-week period with a second pulmonoscopy to follow. During the second procedure, his lungs were improved to the point they could be suctioned and cultures obtained. Results from the cultures were reported as “normal flora” and “nothing unusual.” For me, that was a red flag despite relief that cancer was not a player. To the primary physician and the pulmonologist, I received minimal to no response when I raised the question with regard to his GERD history. Might he be aspirating in his sleep? No worries; increased doses of Prilosec.

Larry followed up in August with the pulmonologist’s office. He was better, but not well. His oxygen levels were better, but not normal. He was not coughing as much, but was coughing daily. During his visit, he was seen by the nurse practitioner. I again raised my concern that I believed Larry was aspirating during his sleep secondary to his GERD. She heard me. She referred to the GI who ultimately referred for what I thought would be a barium swallow.

I was given permission to observe his barium swallow and was thankful I was. They had orders for a modified barium swallow only. Pharyngeal function was not the concern for me. I was able to gain an addendum order to include a barium swallow. As expected, Larry’s oral and pharyngeal functions were normal. No s/s of aspiration. However, his barium swallow revealed gross regurgitation to the level of the vestibule, poor peristaltic wave and reflux on every bolus/bolus stream. The radiologist supported my every nag without even knowing it. Elevate the bed. No late meals or snacks before bed. No alcohol immediately before bed. Lose a few pounds.

continued on page 6
Right around that time, we received an email from our local news station, WPTV Channel 5. They had heard about Blake and The Chocolate Spectrum and asked to come and film us as we made chocolate. I’m never one to say “no” to free publicity, so we hosted the WPTV crew one day in our production kitchen. I was a little concerned that Blake would be upset by the crew, but surprisingly, the opposite reaction occurred. He loved the attention and “hammered” it up for the cameras.

I guess all the therapy focusing on increasing Blake’s social skills paid off! The filming resulted in a really wonderful segment that not only focused on us, but the reason I started the business to begin with: The lack of adult services in my community. The segment was shown several times and received great feedback. I was then invited to the Channel 5 studios a month or so later to participate in a panel discussion about the issues surrounding adults on the spectrum, that aired on television as well.

Valentine’s Day was our next major “chocolate” holiday. At this point, due to the impact of social media, our reach had now extended beyond our friends and family. So Valentine’s Day was even busier than Christmas. But we were a little more organized and prepared, so things went very smoothly. Still, my back and feet were aching at the end of every day. Small price to pay for the ability to give my son a productive life!

In late March, we were approached by individuals from Autism Speaks. They were planning to have their Light It Up Blue Campaign initiate from Palm Beach where we live. The founders, Suzanne and Bob Wright, along with other dignitaries, were scheduled to appear at this event. We were asked to participate. I then made a bold decision to bring Blake and have him hand out chocolate samples. I was quite nervous about bringing Blake into the unknown, but I went with it. And again, my son surprised me to no end. He was the life of the party. Happy and excited to be included. He lasted the entire four hours of the event including the period of time devoted to speeches by the dignitaries. You could have knocked me over with a feather. Both my husband and I were in awe of Blake’s behavior.

Everyone, including the Wrights, came over for a photo op with Blake. Wonders never cease!

Easter followed and then came Mother’s Day. Each holiday we are getting more and more organized and professional. This is certainly a learning experience for the both of us.

This past June, we decided to take another leap of faith. Every June, in Orlando, Florida, there is a major disability conference called The Family Café. They host several thousand individuals with special needs and their families each year. I saw online that they were offering a free vendor booth to Micro-Enterprises. I just couldn’t turn down that offer. I knew it meant making boxes and boxes of chocolate in advance, figuring out how to safely transport it up to Orlando and keep it fresh, and hope that it would sell at the conference. In addition, I had to put together a booth with banners and table decorations. I knew it would be not only a financial investment, but a huge undertaking. But I’ve never been one to shy away from a challenge. So we decided to try it out. Right around this same time, we had just brought in a new man with Down syndrome named Chris to join The Chocolate Spectrum Team. So in between training with Chris, we started making chocolate, and chocolate, and did I say chocolate? Let’s just say we made thousands of pieces of chocolate! With help from my husband, who was in charge of transportation and “schlepping” (this is a Yiddish word for carrying in lots of boxes), my daughter-in-law, Poom, who turned out to be a really good sales person, and my other son, Hunter, a behaviorist who lives in Orlando, we actually pulled this off. Yes, we made a little too much chocolate, but we sold a lot, and had a great time!

I’m learning a lot. I’ve made a decision to begin a structured chocolatier training program for adults with developmental disabilities. If Blake and now Chris can be successful, so can many other individuals. I’ve applied for a grant from Autism Speaks, so I’m keeping my fingers crossed. Bridging my years as a speech-language pathologist with my new found vocation, I hope will result in my ability to bring this dream to a reality. We are off to a good start.

Since I began this endeavor, I’ve been

continued on page 6
We elevated the head of the bed and his reflux medicines were changed and increased. Larry’s lung status improvements were marked once he demonstrated increased compliance with reflux management recommendations. He was compliant with his asthma medications and GI medications, continuing to take them even though he was feeling better. Since approximately December 2013, his improvements have been steady. Like many of us, though, he tends to think himself invincible when he begins to feel better. When he falters on his precautions (late night snacking, for example), his cough will become more congested, not to mention increased coughing and snoring while sleeping. It is a battle. The next skirmish will be advocating for a sleep study.

My purpose for sharing this intimate story is to reinforce the need for us as professionals to perk our ears when our clients report a history of or symptoms of reflux disease, who also have voice, COPD and/or dysphagia complaints. I am absolutely convinced that Larry’s ability to tolerate any aspiration, whether his stomach contents or normal flora/saliva, is compromised secondary to his respiratory history. The two conditions, compromised lung health and reflux disease, served as a fierce combination overlooked by his medical practitioners. The two were not considered related until I raised the questions and voiced (repeatedly) my concern.

Two lessons:
1. Nagging can pay dividends.
2. Reflux disease is a threat to more than the esophagus and voice quality.

My soapbox:
1. Screening the esophagus during modified barium swallows should be standard practice to rule out “unseen” or unrecognized complications.
2. Always consider the big picture. Be willing to consider the influence of conditions outside our scope of practice as commonly influencing our practice.

The radiologist said I saved Larry’s life. I am not certain that is true, but I am thankful I have enough knowledge and experience to recognize the possible influence his reflux disease was having on his pulmonary status. It didn’t hurt being a bit of a nag either. [I only said “I told you so” once.]

Tamara B. Cranfill, PhD, CCC-SLP
President-Elect, Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Weaving chocolate into the fabric of the autism world
Valerie Herskowitz
“The Chocolate Lady” and FLASHA Past President and President-Elect
Visit us at: http://www.thechocolatespectrum.com/

Blake with Suzanne Wright, the co-founder of Autism Speaks. Notice his great joint attention!

Valerie with Sara Baker, the winner of The Chocolate Spectrum raffle prize.
In March 2013, the Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV) had the pleasure of having Leon “Jigger” Sirois, a well-known former race car driver, and considered The Stuttering Foundation’s “favorite unofficial ambassador” as our Keynote Speaker. A stutterer for the first 65 years of his life, Leon enrolled in an intensive speech therapy program, found his voice, and has been speaking on the topic of stuttering since that time. I’ve known Leon for several years now, and know his story will inspire you, and fill you with pride for our profession. Truly the entire audience maintained rapt attention throughout his speech, and many tears were shed during the presentation. Leon was witty, engaging and a true storyteller, who put a face on the lifelong stutterer who has overcome! I can’t encourage you enough to consider inviting Leon to speak at your annual convention, because he will leave you with hope, pride, enthusiasm and a renewed sense of resolve in working with patients who stutter. Leon has not only spoken in Virginia, but Kentucky as well. He is also being courted by other states, as his popularity as a dynamic and informative speaker grows. Leon’s goal is to spread the word of hope, healing, and gratitude to the speech/language/hearing associations in all 50 states. I hope you will help Leon reach his goal, because in the end, you and your membership will be enriched and inspired by his lifelong quest for fluency.

C. Edward Vann
VP of Finance, Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia

The Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) was honored to have Leon “Jigger” Sirois as its keynote speaker for the 55th Annual Convention in April 2014. Mr. Sirois has a passion and dedication for praising speech-language pathologists and the therapy services they provide. He is on a mission to spread the word about how stuttering affects not only the stutterer but also those around, be it family, friends, employer, acquaintances or someone he meets while walking. Throughout the three and a half days of the Convention, many MSHA members stopped Leon wanting a few moments with him or to share their story of a loved one who stuttered.

In addition to being the featured speaker, Leon led a professional session at the Convention titled Supporting Those Who Stutter: Knowing Our Resources. He also remarked briefly on the impact stuttering had in his life prior to receiving treatment. Leon’s story is one that everyone should hear whether a professional, parent or stutterer. He is a person who sincerely wants to have the opportunities available to share his lifelong experiences and to encourage seeking treatment early on. Leon Sirois is definitely a spokesman for the speech-language pathology profession. During his one-hour keynote speech, you could hear a pin drop in the crowd of more than 1,000 as well as see some tears and tissues raised. Please consider adding his name to your list of speakers with a story to share and praise for the speech-language pathology profession.

Jane Webb, MS, CCC-SLP
President, Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association
• Now a battery of 16 stand-alone tests
• New! Scaled scores for the Pragmatics Profile
• New! Pragmatics Activities Checklist—use interactive activities to identify a student’s atypical social language behaviors.
• Obtain initial information about how oral language difficulties affect literacy skills with just two tests: Reading Comprehension and Structured Writing.

• Screen students ages 5 through 21 in 15 minutes
• Now includes a pragmatics screening!

Contact us to order

800.627.7271

CELFFamily.PearsonClinical.com

Copyright © 2014 Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Q-global, Always Learning, CELF, Pearson, design for Ps, and PsychCorp are trademarks, in the U.S. and/or other countries, of Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliates. 1628 4/14