

Audiology Advocate

Welcome to Spring!

**Florida Academy of
Audiology Taking
Nominations for Board
of Directors
Deadline May 14**

Also Inside....

Education Report...Convention Update

On the Importance of Lobbying

Hearing Loss of America

Everything You Wanted to Know

Florida Telecommunications Relay

Partnership

Project Yucatan 2011

Report from the Academy's Lobbyist

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President's Message



Sharon S. Rophie, Au.D.
2011 President
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Spring is here and what a great time to Celebrate Audiology! We are fortunate to have two months of the year dedicated to celebrating our profession. October is National Audiology Awareness Month and National Protect your Hearing Month. May is Better Hearing Month. This is a perfect time to bring awareness to our patients, referral sources, and communities. Get the word out-who we are and what we do!

on the upcoming convention is posted there. Mark your calendars for convention August 25-27 at the Sheraton Sand Key in Clearwater.

We bid farewell to FLAA Secretary, Michelle Colburn, Au.D, who will soon be moving with her family out of state. Michelle has been a valuable FLAA board member and will truly be

missed. We wish her and her family all the best in their new venture. Thank you, Michelle, for all you have done for FLAA! I would like to welcome Devon Weist, AuD, who has been appointed by the board to fill the secretary position until the next election.

I hope you all have a wonderful spring and enjoy your spring holidays!

It is also a great time to connect with our legislature. Our new lobbyist is keeping us up to date on what is going on in the legislature and how it affects our profession. But we cannot rely on him to do everything for us. It is up to us to contact our representatives. It is up to us to attend "on the Hill" days. We need to keep up to date with local issues and national issues such as the hearing aid tax credit and direct access. This has been a dream for years-we still need to get the word out. We need to protect what we have and pursue what we want. It is up to all of us to be advocates for audiology.

Good communication is the key to success. FLAA keeps you up to date thru email E-blasts and the FLAA website. If you have not been to the website recently, take a look. It is host to a lot of valuable information. You can renew your membership dues on the website. Government affairs updates are listed there. Information

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From the Editor.....



Kelly Hansen, Au.D.
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Welcome to the spring issue of the Advocate. We have an exciting and informative issue for you all. Dr. Sharon Rophie urges us all to be advocates for audiology. Dr. Fred Cobb updates us on membership. Membership needs you! Dr. Cindy Simon introduces us to our new lobbyist. This is wonderful news for audiology! Our lobbyist, Mat Forrest, gives us a legislative update. Be sure to check out his article. Dr. Debra Shimon again announces the openings of several board positions. Please strongly consider running for the following positions: VP Professional Affairs; VP Communications and VP Membership. Dr. Sergio Guerreiro updates us on the FLAA Convention. With all of the wonderful things Dr. Guerreiro has planned, this will surely be a convention you won't want to miss!

So, I remind you again to mark your calendars for the annual FLAA Convention which will be held at the Sheraton Sand Key in Clearwater, August 25-27, 2010. In addition, our 2011 Sponsorship opportunities can be accessed on FLAA's website. Please share this information with your manufacturer representatives.

As always, I welcome all research articles and any news, special events or projects. Please contact me at communications@floridaaudiology.org. I would love to hear from you!



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Education Report

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This year's Florida Academy annual Conference "Sound Waves" is coming to shore at the Beautiful Sand Key Resort on Clearwater Beach. As always, your board members continue to work endlessly to help assemble an educational program intended to provide you with informative and practical information.

Similar to previous years, diversity of courses and program options continue to be educational and interactive for all of our members.

This year we are piloting a community out-reach program for Clearwater residents. The program will have a one hour seminar in hearing and hearing solutions, followed by an opportunity to visit the exhibit hall.

Some highlights this year is a day course on "Brain development for language and literacy" presented by Carol Flexer Ph.D. This course will also be offering LSLS certification hours.

Dr. C. Berlin will present several sessions on the topic of the past, present and future of our profession. He titles this course "Audiology is Evolving: Past Mistakes, Best Practices and the Future of Hearing Science"

Dr. Jay Hall will be returning to offer Medical Errors. As this is a licensure year, we expect another exciting course. The manufacturer's panel will be present with more audience participation.

Hot topics on "Pediatric Vestibular Disorders and Assessment" and "Ocular and Cervical VEMPs" will be presented by Devin L. McCaslin, Ph.D. (Vanderbilt).

Your Board and I are looking forward to coming ashore with "SOUND WAVES" and having a great time at this year's Convention at the CLEARWATER, SAND KEY RESORT.

See you soon and stay safe...



Student Liaison Committee

Deb Shimon, Au.D.
Past President
University of Florida
(352) 273-5303
pastpres@floridaaudiology.org

The FLAA Student Liaison Committee met in March, 2011 to continue the excellent work started by last year's inaugural group of students. The student members this year are Rud Nast (University of Florida), Amanda Kluzynski (University of South Florida) and Lindsay Braziller (Nova Southeastern University). These students have volunteered their time and expertise to expand the student section of the FLAA website by adding and updating relevant materials, participating in executive board meetings and, in general, making FLAA the go-to site for our student members. Last year, the Student Resources website section was developed to include FAQ materials on student achievement awards, student research awards, and the White Coat Ceremony. They also added student membership and provisional licensure information. The 2011 committee plans to meet at AAA to coordinate their efforts. FLAA appreciates the volunteer spirit of these student members and welcomes them!



We
Want
YOU!

Join the Board of
Directors This Year

By Deb Shimon, Au.D., Past President

Have you ever wondered how FLAA decides to support certain issues and not others? Have you ever wondered how your state organization really works? Have you ever wanted to make a difference to your profession but didn't know where to start? Are you interested in the health and welfare of your state license? Then this would be the perfect time for you to participate by running for a board position. Three positions are up for renewal: VP Professional Affairs; VP Communications and VP Membership. If you would like more information about any of these positions or what serving on the FLAA Board is all about, please contact Debra Shimon, Past-President, at pastpres@floridaaudiology.org right away. The election slate must be set in May. I look forward to talking to you!

VP Professional Affairs • VP Communications • VP Membership

Hear with Your Ears ~ Listen with Your Heart

By Noël Crosby, Au.D. and Judy Martin



Please read the following with your heart open. It may be helpful for us to put ourselves in our patient's position to try to REALLY understand how their hearing loss impacts them every moment of their life.

How do you feel about your hearing loss?

Compiled by Judy G. Martin, Immediate Past President
Hearing Loss Association of Florida

One of the many ways that the Hearing Loss Association of America offers support is through its message board. Topics include Middle Ear Implants; Tinnitus; Technology Tips; Families, Friends and You; Employment Barriers; and much, much more. Recently a reader asked the question above and it became very popular as people poured out their hearts. We thought Audiologists would appreciate a peek into the emotions of some people with hearing loss. We invite you to join us on the message board, if you like. <http://www.hear4life.org/>



**Hearing Loss
Association**
of Florida

...

I think about being fired from my job.

I think about the losing battle to get my job back again.

I think about times when bluffing has left me feeling isolated and embarrassed.

I think about my frustration about my inability to interact socially.

I think of the fear of answering the telephone or of getting into a conversation that I can't understand or continue.

I think about my loss of independence and reliance on others to hear and interpret for me.

I think of losing my ability to hear, enjoy and understand music.

The word that pops into my brain that describes all of this is "humiliation".

Losing my hearing has been a humiliating and humbling experience.

Of course I know it's not good to dwell on negative thoughts.

And I know that there are many strategies for lessening the impact of hearing loss.

But equally it's not good to live in denial about having hearing loss.

The considerable practical and social difficulties are a daily challenge.

The associated feelings of loss and bereavement are worth describing and acknowledging before moving on with life.

...

I feel blessed that my cochlear implant and hearing aid have restored enough hearing for me to be active again.

I am grateful for the members in my HLA chapter. Their mentoring and support has made a huge difference.

I am thankful our chapter meets in auditorium which has a hearing loop system.

I appreciate the CART support we have at all meetings.

I am beholden that captions on TV are almost universal

I am pleased that captions are becoming more prevalent at movies and plays

I am encouraged that more people with hearing loss are speaking out for our needs

...

I often think my hearing loss is like living in a foreign country and not speaking/understanding the language since so much of the speech I hear sounds like some other language.

See HLA on page 9

HLA from page 8

I wonder what it is like to have “normal” hearing. I would love to know what that is like. I try not to have my own little pity party, and most of the time I am just accepting that, in fact, I don’t hear well.

I am thankful that I was not born deaf and was able to learn to speak. I am thankful that I was able to work until about 10 years ago and do a good job and am accepting that I won’t work at a job again.

I am thankful that I can afford (sometimes) to try out new technologies and am able (usually) to figure them out.

I am thankful that I can see and walk.

I hate that I don’t feel good enough (worthy) to join, go, or be a part of whatever interests me.

So, I guess we can all be as happy as we make up our minds to be.

• • •

As a Deaf person, I am happier than I have been in a long time. I have friends that completely accept me and don’t see me as “broken”. I have a language that will carry me through however much more hearing I lose.

I’m thankful that I found an audiologist that not only listens to me but also makes me laugh. (and didn’t scoff when I said I wanted earmolds with glitter!)

Sometimes I get frustrated when I have to use the phone and there’s someone with a thick accent I can’t understand.

I get angry that 72% of Deaf people are un- or under-employed because that number includes a handful of friends that are brilliantly smart and hard working but can’t get an interview because employers don’t want to hire an interpreter.

Then, after angry, I get nervous that I won’t be able to find another job if something ever happens to the job I have now.

• • •

There is an ‘inside of me’ that is always alone. No one else can visit there. It’s been like that since I was a kid.

How do you feel about your hearing loss?

Crushing at times.

Always lagging conversations, robbed of verbal spontaneity.

Fight or flight, in times of misunderstood crisis? Post-traumatic stress disorder?

So much pretending, faking, bluffing, withdrawal. An innocent means of survival.

Hearing loss is 24/7. I am constantly reminded with every conversation, sound, and puzzled face. It really never stops. Not even asleep at night.

Overcoming the odds, those occasional triumphs, help boost morale. It’s a high most others don’t understand. And all it takes is a nod, a wink, or a pat on the back

• • •

I’m too stubborn to let my hearing loss bother me.

Yeah, there are times that I wish I could hear better.

There are things that I’m less likely to do because of my hearing loss.

I live in the here and now. I rarely regret the past and rarely worry about the future.

Life goes on.

Legislative Update

April 4, 2011

Amy Young and Mat Forrest
Smith & Ballard



Message from Amy Young: I want to first state how thrilled we are to be back on board as Legislative Consultants to FLAA. I was so honored to have represented your organization in the past and I am looking forward to working with you again.

Mat Forrest came on board with Smith & Ballard in 2007 and he will be handling the day to day monitoring of your issues. If you attended last year's convention in Orlando you will remember Mat from his legislative awareness presentation.

We are both very excited to be working on your behalf and pleased to have been welcomed "home" to our FLAA family.

Mat Forrest update:

We are now in the 5th week of the 9 week Legislative Session. Even though there are dozens of new faces this Session, after the November 2010 election cycle, they are flying through legislation. Of course that's because the national wave of Republican winners last November was even felt in Florida and they now have a veto proof majority in both Chambers. The leaders of the legislature have wasted no time using this majority and have already passed several bills including a new teacher merit pay bill.

One thing that has not changed this Session though is that they still face a budget deficit. This year the deficit is estimated at about \$4.6 billion: a very tough gap to fill especially considering the past few lean years have already cut pretty deep.

More cuts aren't much of a surprise though. We all knew they were coming. With this stronger

conservative Legislature, along with a new Republican Governor, Rick Scott, who was elected on a reduce taxes and spending platform, you knew at least one thing before the Session even started; the cuts were coming and it was just a matter of exactly where and how much. An issue that even at week 5 is still in debate.

Here is a summary of some of the biggest issues that could impact FLAA as well as some bills of note:

The Budget

The House and Senate are expected to pass their versions of the budget this week. After this, a process known as committee conferencing begins, where joint committees of Senators and Representatives meet to negotiate the differences in their respective budgets.

Overall, the Senate budget is \$69.8 billion, down from \$70.5 billion this year. The House budget is \$66.5 billion. A majority of their differences are in Transportation issues but here are some specifics on FLAA related areas. Here are the excerpts from the current budget proposals regarding adult vision and hearing Medicaid services

HOUSE BUDGET PROPOSAL (2011-2012)

MEDICAID SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS

164 SPECIAL CATEGORIES
ADULT VISION AND HEARING SERVICES
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 7,111,618

FROM MEDICAL CARE TRUST FUND 9,029,139

FROM REFUGEE ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND . 323,141

Funds in Specific Appropriation 164 reflects a reduction of \$1,187,273 from the General Revenue Fund and \$1,507,400 from the Medical Care Trust Fund as a result of limiting coverage for hearing services for Medicaid recipients under the age of 21, effective October 1, 2011. The agency is authorized to seek any federal waiver or state plan amendment necessary to implement this provision.

Also...

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 485, \$250,000 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund shall be used to support the Statewide Council on Deafness.

SENATE BUDGET PROPOSAL (2011-2012)

MEDICAID SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS

Funds in Specific Appropriations 164 through 212A are contingent upon Senate Bill 1972 or similar legislation becoming law which limits Medicaid Program spending to the amount appropriated in the General Appropriations Act and specifies specific corrective measures for a state agency to follow in the event that the Social Services Estimating Conference projects a Medicaid Program deficit for that agency.

See Legislative on Page 13

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. - Equipment Update

Colleen Schuster, Outreach Manager
Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.

FTRI is continually assessing new equipment for our specialized phone program. Two recent upgrades to existing models offer exciting options for our hard of hearing clientele.



XL-50 Amplified Phone with ClarityLogic™

One of FTRI's more popular phones, the XL-50, amplifies incoming sound up to 60dB, has four tone control settings, and a backlit keypad with large numbers. The XL50 now comes with built-in customer support service. Clients simply press the blue ClarityLogic™ button on the top right corner of the phone, and are instantly connected with a customer service representative who can see inside the phone and remotely make adjustments, such as programming a new number into the phonebook, and customizing the speed dial.

The XL-50 also has a new out-of-box design, which means the phone line, adapter, and handset are already connected. This is an added benefit for clients who have tremors or lack the dexterity to connect components. The XL50 is a good solution for those with a moderate-to-severe hearing loss or low vision.



CapTel 800 Captioning Phone

The new CapTel 800 enables a severely hard of hearing user to speak for themselves and read the incoming response. The user dials the number of the person they wish to call on the CapTel 800 phone. The call is transparently connected over the phone line to a service that provides the captions. At the Captioning Service, a specially-trained operator uses voice-recognition technology to transcribe whatever is said by the other party. The captions appear on the CapTel 800 display screen. User can hear the other party, plus read the captions to be certain of what is said. The CapTel 800 phone does not generate captions of the phone call on its own.

The new model has a larger display screen with adjustable font size, color and background.

- Incoming callers dial the service first, then enter CapTel owner's phone number in order for them to get captions. There is no need to dial the service first if the CapTel client is using the two-line feature on the unit.
- Phone book stores frequently called numbers (95+ names)

- Easy access to voice mail and answering machine messages.
- Works just like a standard phone for people who do not need captions.

The CapTel 800 works with headsets, a neck loop, or with another type of listening device to maximize the audio quality or for hands-free use.

FTRI requires all clients requesting a CapTel for the first time must contact FTRI for assessment. Clients must be trained at their local FTRI regional distribution center. Our goal is to place the right piece of equipment with the client. The CapTel involves more training than the other FTRI phones and may not be appropriate for all clients.

If you would like more information about the XL50 with ClarityLogic™ or the new CapTel 800 please contact the FTRI Outreach Department at orsecretary@ftri.org. A complete list of FTRI equipment is available under the Equipment tab on the FTRI website: www.ftri.org. All FTRI equipment is loaned to qualified Florida residents at no cost, for as long as it is needed, or until the client moves out of state. Applications are available online or through the Outreach Department.

Professional Affairs Report

Cindy Simon, Au.D.

Vice President - Professional Affairs

South Miami Audiology Consultants

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Well everyone, we are so glad we now have a lobbyist. Mat Forrest has been hard at work looking out for us in Tallahassee. Some of the bills he has been monitoring include one relating to Medicaid Services. Part of this proposal will eliminate adult Medicaid optional coverage for hearing services and hearing aids. This has happened in the past and then the services were restored at a later year. It could happen again.

There is a bill to support auditory-oral education known as the Auditory-Oral Education Act. It would provide that the parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child may enroll their child in an auditory-oral education program at a school that meets certain requirements as part of a public school choice option. There is another bill that would create a "Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children's Educational Bill of Rights". This would recognize the unique communication needs of these children and encourage the development of communication-driven and language-driven education delivery system. This would require DOE to develop a communication model to become part of the IEP process for these students.

Our lobbyists are closely following recommendations made by Governor Scott's transition team. One was a suggestion to create a super health care agency by combining the DOH, AHCA, and mental health programs in other Departments or Agencies. We are watching carefully to see what happens.

That is about it for now. There are many other bills being followed, however, their potential to affect audiology at this time is indirect and

monitoring continues. In the future, we hope to have a Legislative Day in Tallahassee. If you hear of anything that causes concern, please don't hesitate to email me. Our lobbyist is very attentive and quick with research and a response.

Service such as we are currently receiving adheres to the old adage "you get what you pay for". We MUST continue with the employment of a lobbyist beyond this year and plan to

continue for many years to the future. This CANNOT be accomplished without your assistance and support. Please show your support for your profession and the monitoring of your profession by giving generously towards supporting the lobbyist. Plan on attending Mat's session at the annual FLAA meeting this summer and see for yourself how your dollars will help keep you in business and your profession viable.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION regarding the clinical study from the University of California at San Francisco Medical Center that shows the Zen feature (only available in Widex hearing aids) has demonstrated promise in the treatment of tinnitus, **please visit www.widexPro.com or call 1.800.221.0188.**

Indications for Use: The Zen Program is intended to provide a relaxing sound background for adults (21 years and older) who desire to listen to such a background in quiet. It may be used as a sound therapy tool in a tinnitus treatment program that is prescribed by a licensed hearing healthcare professional (audiologists, hearing aid specialists, otolaryngologists) who is trained in tinnitus management.

164 SPECIAL CATEGORIES
ADULT VISION AND HEARING
SERVICES
FROM GENERAL REVENUE
FUND 8,069,944
FROM MEDICAL CARE TRUST
FUND 10,245,863
FROM REFUGEE ASSISTANCE
TRUST FUND . 323,141

Funds in Specific Appropriations 164, 168, 170, 172, 175, 177, 181,182, 184, 186-188, 191-196, 198, 199, and 201, reflect a reduction of \$97,693,825 from the General Revenue Fund, \$4,622,141 from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund, and \$122,066,229 from the Medical Care Trust Fund to reflect the elimination of the Medicaid Aged and Disabled (MEDS-AD) program effective April 1, 2012.

Funds in Specific Appropriations 164, 165, 167, 168, 170, 172, 175, 177, 181, 182, 184, 186-188, 193-196, 199, and 201, reflect a reduction of \$96,157,486 from the General Revenue Fund,\$7,806,701 from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund, and \$126,229,593 from the Medical Care Trust Fund to reflect the revision of the Non-poverty Medical Subsidy program to provide physician only services for adults effective April 1, 2012.

From the funds in Specific Appropriations 164, 165, 167, 168, 170,172, 175, 177, 181, 182, 184, 186-188, 191, 192-196, 198, 199, and 201,the Agency for Health Care Administration shall provide each Non-poverty Medical Subsidy program and Medicaid Aged and Disabled (MEDS-AD) program eligible a change of coverage notice that complies with Title XIX requirements. Such notice shall also include a listing of other options for obtaining coverage including information regarding the Temporary

Federal High Risk Insurance Pool program- Information on the high risk pool program must include a general description of the program, an electronic Internet web link and mailing

address to obtain and complete an application, and any other information that would facilitate the transition to the program.

General Healthcare Budget Review:

The House actually increases overall spending on health and human services; \$28.7 billion to \$29.2 billion while the Senate reduces spending to \$28.3 billion. However these savings from cuts to health-care providers, as you'll note in their reference to SB1972 in the budget, are offset somewhat by Medicaid changes.



The House budget would keep the MEDS-AD program intact with \$889 million in funding.

You'll also note that the Senate also proposes significant cuts to the Medically Needy program by limiting coverage to only physician services for everyone except pregnant adults. The House keeps the Medically Needy program at \$1.16 billion.

The House does make its own cuts, including eliminating "optional" services like hearing aids.

General Education Budget Review:

The Senate cuts \$1 billion from direct aid to classrooms, a \$423 cut to the per-pupil average. The House cuts \$1.1 billion, or \$463 per-pupil. However, both chambers are taking a bulk of these cuts from the State contribution to teacher pensions;

roughly \$700 million.

Medicaid Reform

Another known fact when the Session began was that Medicaid reform was coming. The House had passed a bill last year but the Senate wasn't ready to take up the issues until this year. However even though both Chambers are agreed that there needs to be Medicaid reform they have both approached the issue from different angles.

The House and Senate aren't using the exact same language in a single bill but if you piece all the Medicaid bills together the main theme is they are going to "gradually shift" almost all beneficiaries into managed-care plans and there will be cut backs to adult hearing services.

Main Bill(s) Facts:

- **SB 1972**...Health and Human Services by Negron
 - Currently still working through committee process but it's expected to pass the Senate soon.
 - Hearing Services under the Managed Care section only serve under 21: Page 139: 409.972 Managed care medical assistance services.—(f) Early periodic screening diagnosis and treatment services, hearing services and hearing aids, and vision services and eyeglasses for enrollees under age 21. Hearing services for a recipient who is under age 21. (j) Hearing services that are medically indicated for a recipient who is 21 years of age or older.
- **HB 7107**....Medicaid Managed Care by Schenck
 - Passed the full House...(80 to 38, party lines)
 - Hearing Services covered under managed care section: Page 37
- **HB 5311**....Medicaid Services by Hudson

See Legislative on Page 14

Legislative from Page 13

- Expected to pass this week.
- Cuts adult (over 21) Medicaid optional coverage for hearing services

Medicaid Reform Editorial Comments:

The House and Senate still have differences to work out including how to break the state into managed-care regions and how to hold HMOs and other types of plans accountable for serving beneficiaries.

They also disagree on if people with developmental disabilities, such as autism, should be required to enroll in managed care. The House wants to include them. The Senate would not.

They differ on the timeline too. The Senate wants it in place for most beneficiaries by Dec. 31, 2012. For long-term care, the deadline would be March 31, 2013. The House would start with long-term care being fully implemented by Oct. 1, 2013, for the broader Medicaid population, Oct. 1, 2014, people with developmental disabilities, Oct. 1, 2016.

Bills of Note:

SB 1254 and HB 937....Auditory Oral-Education Act

Auditory-oral Education Programs; Cites this act as the "Auditory Oral-Education Act"- Revises provisions relating to public school choice options for parents of public school students to include auditory-oral education programs. Provides that a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing may enroll the child in an auditory-oral education program at a school accredited by OPTION Schools, Inc., or at a school in which the supervisor and the majority of faculty are certified as Listening and Spoken Language Specialists by the Alexander Graham Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

The Senate bill has passed one committee with one more stop remaining. The House bill is still waiting to be heard and we are

actively working with Legislature to get this bill moving.

SB 1584 and 1385.... Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children's Education Bill of Rights

Recognizes the unique communication needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and encourages the development of a communication-driven and language-driven educational delivery system in the State. Requires the Department of Education to develop a communication model to become part of the individual education plan process for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

The Senate bill has its first of two committee stops this week. The House bill is still waiting to be heard and has 3 committee references.

SB 516 and HB 83... Autism Spectrum Disorder Study Committee

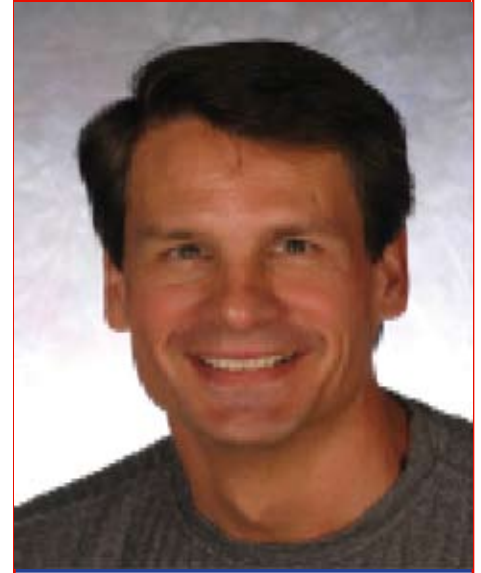
Creates the Autism Spectrum Disorder Study Committee to study autism spectrum disorder in families in which English is the second language. Provides for membership, meetings, and duties. Prohibits committee members from receiving compensation for their services. Authorizes certain funding for publications, subject to approval of the State Surgeon General. Requires a report to the Governor and Legislature. Provides for expiration of the committee. EFFECTIVE DATE: upon becoming a law

The Senate bill has one more stop. The House bill is still waiting to be heard and has 3 committee references.

So there is the Legislative Session in a very small nutshell. If you have specific questions or comments on a particular piece of legislation please feel free to contact the Government Affairs committee and we would be happy to assist.

Membership Report

Fred Cobb, Ph.D.
Vice President - Membership
Bay Pines VA Health Care
(727) 398-6661
membership@floridaaudiology.org



Membership needs not only YOU but your co-workers as well!!!

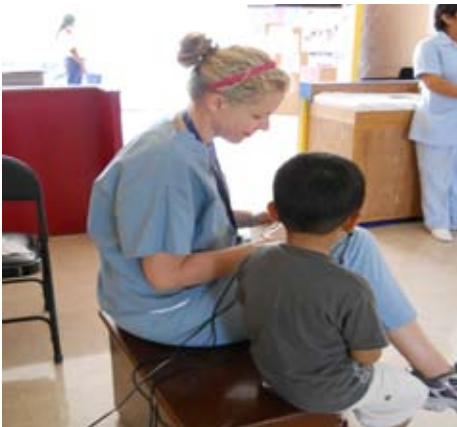
Greetings academy members! At this time three years ago we had 184 members with 173 fellows of the academy and 9 student members. A year and a half ago the academy totaled 269 members with nearly 200 fellows and 71 student members. Today, likely due to harsh economic times membership is down to 203 members but we're not stopping there. With **your** membership and the membership of your colleagues the academy will thrive. Membership brings great power and resources to the academy as we look forward to a wonderful year and incredible convention here in Clearwater Florida. I'll continue pressing toward increased membership as we near convention. Please **SPEAK UP** and encourage your colleagues to join FLAA now at the start of 2011 to add muscle to our formidable foundation.

Project Yucatan 2011



Each spring break, University of Florida Doctor of Audiology students and faculty travel to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico to provide free hearing healthcare to the underprivileged. In Mexico, audiologic services are largely unavailable or too expensive for most who need it. This year, we had a group of 14 audiology students, 6 pharmacy students, and 5 faculty members who volunteered to spend a week in Campeche, Mexico. Campeche is a beautiful city on the Gulf of Mexico but within the state of Campeche there are many poor and underprivileged people living in small villages. Each day, volunteers split into three groups. We set up our main clinic site in the city of Campeche at their Department of Health facility. One group managed this site, while other groups went to schools, hospitals, and small villages to provide the same care to individuals there. We administered audiometric evaluations including otoscopy, tympanometry, standard audiometric screenings, and electrophysiologic testing. We also cleaned hearing aids, provided free batteries, made earmold impressions, and fit newly diagnosed individuals with donated hearing aids. Each patient was sent to the pharmacy where the students provided vitamins, toothbrushes, baby food, over the counter medicines, and antibiotics to treat otitis media and other infections. Patients who were identified with a hearing loss and need for treatment were sent for follow up care with AYPRODA, the organization that we work closely with on this project. Clinic supplies were donated to AYPRODA so that they can continue to help hearing impaired individuals throughout the year.

In five days and forty hours, University of Florida audiology and pharmacy students and faculty provided quality audiologic and medical care to 1,427 patients. This year, we set a new record in terms of number. But more importantly, we were able to provide care that they otherwise may never have received. And in return, we were given the opportunity to learn and further experience clinical practice, and develop skills and confidence that we can use to become better professionals. We were also given beautiful memories of the people, and their joyous spirits, endless hospitality and gratitude. We all feel incredibly blessed to have had this opportunity and we thank AYPRODA and Campeche for such a beautiful gift!



Thank you to the following universities for co-sponsoring the recent Florida Open House at the AAA Convention in Chicago!

Nova Southeastern University
University of Florida
University of South Florida



CHICAGO APRIL 6-9 2011



Treasurer's Report

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Florida Academy of Audiology
Balance Sheet
As of December 2010

Checking	\$ 84,274
Money Market	\$ 28,589
CD #1	\$ 17,812
CD #2	\$ 19,463
Total	\$150,138

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