



Resound))))))

Spring 2013

Newsletter of the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing

National Black
Association for
Speech-Language and
Hearing

Website:
www.nbaslh.org

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Why NBASLH?

The National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing

N—Networking: NBASLH connects with people from around the African Diaspora (and other diverse populations) at the local, state, national and international levels.

B—Black and Other Minority Research Agenda: NBASLH is a major source of information for research that focuses on health disparities; communication disorders that impact African Americans and other minorities; and increasing the cultural competence of all communication sciences and disorders specialists in therapeutic and classroom environments.

A—Advocacy: NBASLH members maintain an active voice and presence on Capitol Hill and in their respective states to advocate for health policies that affect the general U.S. population as well as those policies that address specific communication sciences and disorders needs of clients we serve.

S—Student-Friendly: NBASLH members strive to educate, develop and instill leadership qualities in the next generation of SLPs and AUDs by serving as best practice role models and mentors in various educational, clinical, business and non-profit settings..

L—Leadership: Members of NBASLH have been Presidents and Fellows of ASHA, have won Special Award Recognitions (i.e., Honors of the Association, Multicultural) through ASHA, and are leaders in State Speech-Language and Hearing Associations; They are Executives of their own private practices; leaders in academia and are present on many ASHA Boards and Committees.

H—History & Heritage: NBASLH members think and act across multiple generations (Those Who Came Before, Those Who Are and Those Yet to Come!). As such, we engage in “Passing the Torch” by fully embracing intergenerational education and training, especially to those members of our society who are underrepresented in the communication sciences and disorders discipline as well as other health professions.

Sign up as a new or former member of our great organization—NBASLH—as we continue to promote communicative effectiveness and communication wellness in our African American communities in the U.S.; across the Black Diaspora—South America, the Caribbean Islands and Africa, throughout many other communities of color (Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Asian) and those communities that have faced historical and present social and economic challenges (Appalachia)!

NBASLH

AN EXPRESSION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE PROFESSION OF
COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Carolyn Mayo, PhD, CCC-SLP

Convention Highlights

Thursday, April 18

Thursday Morning Capitol Hill Visits

Join us for a day on Capitol Hill!



The 2013 NBASLH Convention taking place in Washington, D.C., provides for an excellent opportunity for NBASLH members to meet with their Members of Congress and advocate for their profession. A personal meeting is one of the most effective ways to get to know your lawmakers and their staff, establish or maintain relationships, and communicate your viewpoints. With new legislators taking office in January and many competing interests out there, it is extremely important for your Members of Congress to hear about the importance of our professions and to have us in mind when deciding important legislation. NBASLH will provide materials on the issues and guidance in setting up meetings with your legislators. We hope you will be able to join us!

Look for more information on the Capitol Hill visits via the NBASLH website, facebook, twitter and email messages.

Opening Session, Featuring Ms. Barbara Fernandes

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm



Ms. Fernandes will proudly kick off this year's Convention by sharing her compelling story of moving to the United States from Brazil. While studying in the US to become a speech therapist, she simultaneously taught herself both English and Spanish. Later after graduating, she became an innovator in her field by developing a successful business of more than 50 apps for speech therapists around the world.

Opening Reception

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

After enjoying the Opening Session, unwind with colleagues of old, and meet new ones, while enjoying music and light hors d'oeuvres.

The Opening Reception is sponsored by EBS Healthcare.



Friday, April 19

Annual Membership Meeting

8:00 am – 9:00 am – NEW TIME!

Join the NBASLH Executive Board for the Annual Meeting at its new time! This will be your opportunity to share in the achievements of the past year. Also gain insight on the new and exciting ventures for the upcoming year.

NBASLH Annual Awards Dinner

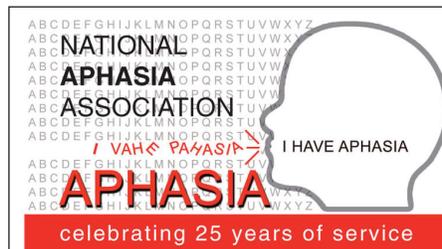
7:00 pm

Featured Presenter: Mr. Gene Wiggins, presenting Making A Difference

Enjoy Desserts and Dancing after the Awards Dinner, sponsored by Howard University.

The Annual Awards Dinner is included in your registration fee, however, additional tickets may be purchased in advance for guests. Please see the registration form for details.

Saturday, April 20



Speaking Out Conference

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

NBASLH is pleased to team up this year with the National APHASIA Association to present the **National Aphasia Association's Regional Speaking out Conference**.

This Conference offers the expertise of leaders in the field of aphasia rehabilitation who will be presenting the latest perspectives on aphasia research, community aphasia programs and living with aphasia through presentations and hands-on demonstrations. The Conference offers a unique integration of views from professionals and people living with aphasia.

The National Aphasia Association is pleased to offer NBASLH attendees a reduced rate for this conference. The fee includes breakfast and lunch. See the registration form for pricing.

Saturday, April 20

Student Mentor Luncheon

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Sponsored by ASHA and NSSLHA

The Student-Mentor Luncheon devotes a special time for students and mentors to enjoy a gathering specifically designated for students. During the luncheon, the Student Research Award recipient will present a synopsis of their research.

There is an extra cost to attend this event. Please see the registration form for details.



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

Special Invitation ASHA National Office

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) cordially invites NBASLH Convention participants to attend a reception celebrating NBASLH's 35th Anniversary

**The ASHA National Office
2200 Research Blvd
Rockville, MD 20850**

Transportation and tours of the ASHA National Office to be provided. Space is limited; register for this event on the enclosed registration form.

Sunday, April 21

Sunday Farewell

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Bid a fond farewell to old friends and new while enjoying a cup of coffee.



Highlighted Presenters



Barbara Fernandes, MS

Ms. Fernandes is the founder and director of *Smarty Ears*. She received her masters degree in Speech and Language Pathology with an emphasis in bilingualism from Texas Christian University. Barbara speaks three

languages (English, Spanish and Portuguese), and she has worked with children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and native languages in several countries. In addition to her passion for working with bilingual children, Barbara's passion for technology has led her to become an active blogger known as *GeekSLP* for www.geekslp.com and the blog of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association known as the *AshaSphere*. As *GeekSLP*, Barbara has been invited as a guest speaker in universities and International conferences, and given workshops and presentations around the world on how technology can be implemented to improve the speech and language skills.



Paul Rao, PhD

Dr. Paul Rao is the 2011 ASHA President and is the Vice President of Operations at the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) in Washington, D.C. Dr. Rao is a Visiting Professor at the University of Maryland, and

in 2000, became a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality and a Certified Healthcare Executive. Dr. Rao received his Bachelor's Degree in philosophy from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, his master's in speech pathology from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and his PhD in hearing and speech science from the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland. Dr. Rao has published numerous articles and chapters on such topics as customer service, policy and procedures, supervision, health literacy and management. He serves on the editorial board of *Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation* and *Advance for Directors*. Dr. Rao is a Fellow in both ASHA and the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Tommie L. Robinson, Jr., PhD

Dr. Robinson is director of the Scottish Rite Center for Childhood Language Disorders in the Children's Hearing and Speech Center at Children Hospital in Washington, D.C. and is an associate professor of pediatrics at The

George Washington University, School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He specializes in communication disorders in children, with a specific focus on children who stutter. Dr. Robinson's research and writings have focussed on normal fluency behaviors in children and adults as well as service delivery to children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Dr. Robinson received his AA degree from Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi, BA and MS, degrees from The University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi and his PhD degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C.



Cathy Runnels, MS

Ms. Runnels, president and lead SLP of Accent on Speech, LLC, brings multiple years of experience gained in corporations, non-profit, medical, and educational settings. Ms. Runnels is presently a faculty associate

at Johns Hopkins University and a national consultant for Western Psychological Services (WPS). She is a former Chair of the Board of the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing and former Board of Ethics member for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She was a featured Alumnus of the Year for

Syracuse University (2011-2012). Ms. Runnels works with professionals to modify their accents and to improve their public speaking skills. She also maintains a clinical caseload of students from independent schools with mild to moderate communication needs. Ms. Runnels is a graduate of Chapman University for undergraduate studies and Syracuse University for the master's degree.



Gene Wiggins, MS

Mr. M. Eugene Wiggins is former Director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). He earned his BS from Hampton

University and his MS from the University of Michigan. He is a founding member of NBASLH and initially served as its Administrative Assistant and Financial Manager before taking on the position of Executive Director, which he held from 1988 to 2002. During his tenure, Mr. Wiggins implemented a variety of proceedings with a focus on multicultural issues in speech-language pathology and audiology, which included spotlighting issues related to the recruitment and retention of African American students in communication disorders programs, generally, and the underrepresentation of blacks in the professions, specifically. Mr. Wiggins also created NBASLH's PRAXIS Review Course. He received the William T. Simpkins, Jr. Service Award from NBASLH; he is an ASHA Fellow, and a recipient of the ASHA Certificate of Recognition for Special Contributions in Multicultural Affairs. He also served as a delegation member of the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program that included connecting with communication sciences and disorders professionals and students in South Africa. He is a recipient of the Paul Phillips Cooke Lifetime Achievement Award from UDC. He served as a grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and was project director (and co-director) of numerous federally funded programs. Mr. Wiggins retired from UDC in 2008.

Calling All Convention Attendees!

NBASLH needs you to volunteer.

Volunteer opportunities available include:

**Registration
Moderator
Administrative
Attendee Preparation
Hostess**

No experience is necessary. Check the NBASLH website for additional information.



NBASLH At ASHA

NBASLH Executive Board

September 1, 2012 - August 31, 2013

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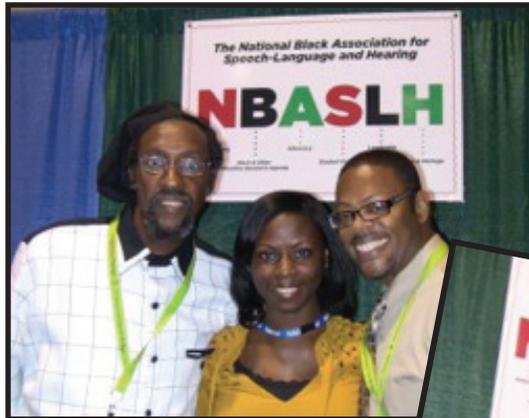
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Cross Disciplinary Battles

When I started practicing as a speech-language pathologist 29 years ago I had no idea about the ‘cross disciplinary battles’ I would have to fight in the future. Nothing in my educational or clinical training had prepared me for what I had to face in terms of professional and sometimes not-so-professional struggles with other disciplines in my efforts to practice.

When I came out of graduate school I was anxious to be a speech-language pathologist. During training I had developed a strong interest in the diagnostic aspect of clinical management and I wanted to be a ‘great’ diagnostician. I performed my CFY in a multi-handicapped therapeutic day school that utilized a transdisciplinary approach. The professional work I did at that day school and being involved as part of that transdisciplinary team approach gave me a positive feeling about working with other disciplines like physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing, social work, psychologist, special education teachers, etc. I felt my work as a speech-language pathologist (even as a CFY) was respected and appreciated. There were no cross disciplinary battles in that educational setting, so I thought that’s the way it would be in other settings. I wanted to work in a variety of settings so as soon as I finished my CFY I started looking for professional opportunities in other settings.

My first new setting after my CFY was a private practice within a pediatric clinic with no cross disciplinary battles, but lots of referrals. Those pediatricians also demonstrated respect and appreciation for the contributions of speech-language pathology in the management of their patients, so I was still quite naïve about cross disciplinary battles.

The first big cross disciplinary battle was threefold and occurred in a hospital setting. The battle was between speech-language pathology and some neonatal nurses, some neonatologists and some radiologists.

The first big cross disciplinary battle was threefold and occurred in a hospital setting. The battle was between speech-language pathology and some neonatal nurses, some neonatologists and some radiologists. I say some because the majority of the neonatal nurses, neonatologists and radiologists were wonderful to work with, because they exhibited genuine respect and appreciation for the contributions of speech-language pathology in the management of patients and their families in the neonatal intensive care unit.

In most cases neonatal nurses are responsible for the oral and/or enteral feeding of neonates in the unit and many have done that job very well but, time and science has improved how diagnostic and therapeutic oral feedings are done, so clinical change is necessary. Science has significantly improved the oral feeding management of neonates with dysphagia. Unfortunately, some nurses have been resistant to that change. In this situation when speech-language pathology was consulted on some oral feeding cases, it sparked some cross disciplinary battles between speech-pathology and nursing.

Some nurses were observed during oral feeding excessively prodding neonates at risk for laryngo-tracheal aspiration with

lung penetration, which in the old days might have earned them a compliment for emptying the bottle during a timely feed regardless of where the liquid went after it left the oral cavity. As long as the neonate did not make too big of a fuss about aspiration all was supposedly good but, the possibility of long-term irreversible respiratory damage seemed not to be considered. When speech-language pathology recommended prodding not be done in some cases the battle intensified. It was a known fact that some nurses would fight against neonates being referred to speech-language pathology to avoid, which in some cases was not in the best interest of the patient. Some of those same nurses were opposed to having videofluoroscopic swallow studies performed on neonates because they thought the barium would clog their digestive system (not so!). Their opposition was not in the best interest of the patient, and cross disciplinary battles was having a reality.

One neonatologist angrily complained about this speech-language pathologist to the chief of speech-language pathology, because, she thought he was making too many neonates NPO (nothing by mouth), only after two of her patients had been placed on NPO status. A computer review of the neonates seen over a period of six months by this speech-language pathologist revealed a very small number had actually been recommended for NPO status and all of them had been appropriately placed on NPO.

The biggest battle in the hospital setting was started by a female Indian American radiologist. The first time she was assigned to work with this African American male speech-language pathologist on a swallow study, she walked out of the radiology suite because she said she was not going to take orders from him. The chief of radiology later told her that it was the speech-language pathologist’s study and she would take directions from him. That battle caused unnecessary delays in patient care and indicated cultural incompetence putting patients at risk for mismanagement.

It seems that the speech-language pathologist’s role in the diagnosis and treatment of mild cognitive impairment has caused a lot of cross disciplinary battles. This speech-language pathologist had his first confrontation in an educational staff meeting with a clinical psychologist that had diagnosed Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) in an adolescent African American female student. This speech-language pathologist was also seeing the student for oral language impairment and had also completed an assessment of attention that did not reveal a problem with sustained auditory or visual attention. A debate ensued as to whether she fit the diagnosis of ADHD. The speech-language pathologist argued that the measure the psychologist’s used to assess attention was inappropriate for this African American student. He had used a test normed on 200 Caucasian students in the United Kingdom. The test used by the speech-language pathologist had been normed on 5 times as many participants who were American citizens aged 5 to 90. The psychologist asked why the speech-language pathologist had given an attention test it was not a speech test. It was explained to him that it was given as part of an assessment of the oral language mechanism. It was further explained that too often evaluators focus on oral language behaviors and overlook assessment of the mechanism that creates those behaviors. The school staff and parents agreed with the

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Cross Disciplinary Battles

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speech-language pathologist in saying they did not feel she was ADHD at this time. The clinical psychologist withdrew his report.

One of the most disheartening cross disciplinary battles has occurred between this speech-language pathologist and some special educators, particularly learning disabilities teachers and reading teachers. Those special educators that have limited knowledge and understanding of the relationship between phonemic awareness and oral reading development will often attempt to block the speech-language pathologist's participation or intervention with oral reading disorders. A classic educational response in those type of situations is, "he/she talks just fine they just don't read well, so speech services are not necessary". Speech-language pathologists that have the courage to stand behind their adequate knowledge and training in treating written language disorders should advocate for the right of the students to receive appropriate speech-language pathology treatment services. This cross disciplinary battle frequently gets the speech-language pathologist labeled as "not a team player".

"I will not tolerate a lecture from you", those were the screaming words of a pediatrician who refused to believe that a blood/lead level of "20" at 9 months of age in his patient had anything to do with the severe oral language impairment in his now 5 year old patient. When this speech-language pathologist tried to give him some information and explain the relationship between high blood/lead levels and oral impairment is when he started screaming. This was another cross disciplinary battle that resulted in no referral for speech-language pathology services.

I expect more cross disciplinary battles in the future as science continues to reveal greater descriptions of human behaviors that can be used by many different disciplines in the management of patients/students/clients, etc.



*Arnell A. Brady, MA, CCC-SLP/L
NBASLH Chairman, 2011-2013*

Alma J. Powell Visits Howard University



Alma J. Powell, Chair of America's Promise Alliance, visited Howard University to receive the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society Award on September 13, 2012. Mrs. Powell leads a campaign to reduce drop-out rates. Among her other responsibilities, Mrs. Powell was appointed by President Obama to the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Her Keynote speech to the public upon receiving her award addressed the need to encourage communities to energize education, particularly as it relates to minority populations.

Mrs. Powell is from Birmingham, Alabama, and is the wife of General Colin Powell. She graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and went on to study speech pathology and audiology at Emerson College in Boston. She worked as the staff audiologist for the Boston Guild for the Hard of Hearing. The Howard University Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders faculty and students were in attendance during the award ceremony in support of her accomplishments, as a fellow professional.

Featured Alumna



When Cathy Runnels talks about her work and our field, she quickly becomes passionate. In both her personal and professional life, Cathy believes it is important to strive to thrive, not just survive, and she regards this as an important distinction for the future of our field as a whole. While owning and managing a successful private practice in the Washington, D.C. metroplex, Cathy has been an

advocate for change, for professional development, and for the centrality of our mission to enhancing the quality of people's lives.

As a youngster, Cathy found herself intrigued with our field when she observed a family member recover speech/language skills after a devastating illness. She was impressed by the role of the speech-language pathologist in facilitating that recovery, but found that there was a general lack of awareness about the field in her home town of Dallas, TX. Cathy subsequently went to Chapman College, where she majored in SLP; she graduated with her master's degree from SU in 1975. For 6 months, with dogged determination, she sought a position in a medical setting, finally landing a job at Harlem Hospital in NYC. As she reflected on her time there in this interview, she noted that she saw herself as a manager – of people, resources, materials, and clients' needs – always keeping in mind her connection to larger organizations and their missions.

Cathy's move to Washington, D.C. provided her with diversity of opportunities – teaching at the University of the District of Columbia, serving first as an SLP and then a series of administrative position in the Speech-Language Division as well as Special Education Division of Montgomery County Public Schools in Rockville, MD, before opening a private practice. Her practice, Accent on Speech, specializes in improving the verbal communication skills of adults in the workplace. Her clients have included individuals from the Command Group of the Marine Corps (Pentagon), scientists at the Army Research Laboratory, senior officials at the State Department, readers at the U.S. House of Representatives, Voice of America, Defense Information Training School, and Pentagon TV Channel. She also teaches a course at Johns Hopkins University on the connections between spoken and written language and served on the Advisory Board of American Guidance Publishing (Pearson) and is a current consultant to Western Psychological Services. One of our current students recently completed an externship with her and described it as an "amazing" experience. Cathy cautions though, that she had to encounter many "no's" before arriving at her current success.

As her photo indicates, Cathy takes seriously her role as an advocate and contributor to policy. She served as chair of the National Black Language Speech and Hearing Association from 2007-2009, co-chaired 2 conventions, and has served on the board for at least 10 years. She also serves on the ASHA Task Forces on support personnel and credentialing of support personnel and she previously served on the ASHA Board of Ethics. She is vitally

interested in the development of our field, and she seeks out opportunities to advance our public profile.

When Cathy graduated from SU, she recalled that she was ready to hit the ground running. She remembers advice she received from Dr. Edward Conture, who told her to pay attention to her fellow students, as she would learn as much from them as she would in his classroom. Cathy did so, and she found it to be excellent advice. She, in turn, seeks to reach back to the university to work with students, knowing that she will grow as the students grow. She also looks forward to reconnecting and collaborating with the department and other units in the university in exciting ways that will benefit our students. Her current projects include development of a training program curricula for a DOD agency as well as publications that outline her unique training approach. We are proud to have Cathy as an alumna, and we are grateful for her desire to "pass it forward" to a new generation of students. (Cathy can be reached at crunnels@aospeech.com).

Reprinted from Syracuse University, The College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Newsletter, Fall 2011.

News From the Southern California Affiliate

Southern California Affiliate charter member, Soloris J. Greene, SMA, CCC-SLP received her 40th year service award pin from the Los Angeles County Office of Education in June 2012. She was honored by ASHA in 2011 as a "Beacon of Inspiration" for her work in providing services to inner city underserved populations and mentoring aspiring SLPs who want to change careers. Soloris, a former Radiologic Technologist, completed her Bachelors and Masters coursework for Speech Pathology and Audiology while working fulltime and caring for two daughters, a husband and a dog. She credits her success to her faith and belief that she "... can do all things through Christ who strengthens..."

Do you have news to share?

Members are encouraged to submit items for consideration and publication in the **Resound**!!!!). Topics include articles of interest to the membership and areas that pertain to SLPs or audiologists.

Share your good news and accomplishments!

If you have a story, announcement or event you would like to place in the **Resound**!!!!), please send your information to:

Diane Yenerall, MPM, CAE
NBASLH Business Manager
nbaslh@nbaslh.org