



Resound))))

Spring 2014

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

National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing

Website:
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Umoja ni nguvu (Unity is Strength)

Report of The Fifth East African Conference on Communication Disability Mombasa, Kenya – September 2-5, 2013

The Association of Speech Language Therapists of Kenya and the Association of Speech Therapists of East Africa sponsored the 5th East African Conference on Communication Disability in Mombasa Kenya, September 2-5, 2013. The first East African Conference was held in 2004, with six participants. This fifth conference was attended by 130 speech-language therapists and allied professionals who work with persons with communication disabilities and swallowing disorders from seven countries on the African continent, including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa. Ten other countries represented included New Zealand, Germany, India, the United States, Austria and the United Kingdom.

The Conference attendees discussed new advances in speech-language therapists (SLT) research and its application in an African context to ensure that those working with communication/swallowing in the region are highly skilled and trained in the most contemporary advancements in treatment.

The focus of the Conference was two-fold. First, the Conference sought to raise awareness of communication and swallowing disabilities among allied professionals including occupational and physical therapists, special educators and administrators with the aim of providing them the basic skills in identification and treatment of those with possible communication disabilities. The Conference also provided an opportunity for practitioners to discuss new advances in speech-language therapy research and its application in East Africa to ensure that the SLT in the region are highly skilled and prepared to provide service in the most contemporary advancements in the field. The ultimate goal of the Conference was to build stronger collaborations between the therapists in East Africa and other countries, between the SLT services and allied professionals, and between public and private sectors in the region.

Dr. Dolores E. Battle provided the keynote address titled *The World is not Flat: Global Issues in Health Care and Disability*. In the address, she cited recent reports from the World Health Organization on disability that estimate that around the world there are more than one billion persons (10%) living with disabilities. Of these 18.6 million have severe disabilities including blindness, hearing loss, quadriplegia and severe depression. Others have moderate disabilities including autism. Yet in spite of the incidence of

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disability, there are significant shortages of personnel equipped to identify those who have impairments and significant global shortages in improving human and financial resources to meet the global need. The lack of resources is particularly evident on the African continent in general and in East Africa in particular. Catherine Crowley (USA) who has done important work in Ghana and Bolivia, for example, gave data that indicates that in Ghana there are nine speech-language therapists for 25 million Ghanians or one SLT for every 2,770,000 persons. Recent data estimates that there are more than 185,000 deaf persons in Tanzania and 230,000 in Kenya. According to the World Health Organization only 10% of the global need for hearing aids is being met with particular shortages being in developing countries.

There are fewer than 10 SLPs in each of the countries in East Africa. For example, Kenya reports that there are only 16 speech-language therapists and speech therapy assistants in the entire country. In Uganda where a new program for SLTs was established in 2010 at Makerere University, there are fewer than 15 speech-language therapists practicing in the country and until recently the profession was not recognized by the government or in public health policy. The situation is similar in Rwanda and Tanzania where there are no currently established training programs. Ulrike Ludke (Germany) reported that in the US there are 43 SLPs for every 100,000 persons. However, in Tanzania there is only one SLP for every 4,622,000 persons.

Problems identified for practice in the region centered around, not only on the lack of human and financial resources, but also in the rich diversity of the region. It is not uncommon for children to speak three to four languages

including their tribal language at home as well as the official languages such as Swahili and English in school. The available speech therapists may speak only English or African. Trixie Pujol (Kenya), a counselor, reported that it is not uncommon for there to be as many as 80-100 children in a single primary class with one teacher. It is not

uncommon for children with special needs to be “included” in the regular education class or have a special education class of 25-30 children with a myriad of disabilities and teachers with minimal if any special training.

The content of the Conference was scholarly as well as practical. Dr. Carol Westby (USA) provided an address on the Roots of Communication Competence which highlighted the universality of the research in communication disability, theory of mind and autism. Dr. Eric Maina, a neurologist and electrophysiologist, spoke about depression as a major issue in stroke especially among women. Presentations at the Conference were made by parents and persons with disabilities who described the impact of culture on their disability. A parent discussed the impact of her child’s cerebral palsy resulting from a vaccine and how she carried him on her back for services three hours each day for two years to learn proper feeding techniques. Because of cultural taboos her neighbors would not speak to her or allow their children to interact with her other children. A successful business man discussed the impact of cultural taboo on his finding appropriate services for his disfluency. A special education teacher spoke about the need for community based rehabilitation services that meet the cultural as well as language needs of the community. Teachers, speech-language therapists, occupational and physical therapists and counselors spoke about the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate assessment and intervention materials. Representatives from Yellow House, a community based organization that provides services in a multidisciplinary framework in western Kenya, spoke about the need for building strong collaborations with allied professionals to provide culturally appropriate community based rehabilitation.

Rosario Romano (USA) focused on the need to have a framework for sustainable goals when working with the underserved. She reminded the Conference attendees that while there are few “bilingual” speech-language pathologists in the US, 57% are bilingual Spanish, while there are nearly 381 different languages spoken in the country. This was also reiterated by Bhairavi Prasanna (India) which is home to more than 300 languages and several dialects.

The framework for providing sustainable services presented by Ludke and reiterated by Roman, provided the basis of the final discussions lead by Emma Shah (Kenya), Merise Fernandes (Uganda) and Dolores Battle, (USA). The final recommendations from the WHO World Report on Disability were presented and the need to address sustainable solutions to serving the underserved by addressing the Macro issues of international policy such as in the World Reports in Disability and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the Meso issues of national and local laws and policies; as well as the Micro issues involving the individual clients and local community based rehabilitation centers. The group was reminded of the barriers to provide appropriate services including policies, cultural attitudes and both human and financial resources.

The ultimate aim of the Conference was to build stronger collaborations between SLTs in East Africa and around the World. New training programs are being developed in Kenya and Tanzania and the ASLTK is developing a competency checklist for newly qualified practitioners in the attempt to have a common standard for professional practice. The Association of East African Speech Therapists welcomed the idea of collaboration with NBASLH and would extend an invitation to NBASLH and its members to participate in the 6th Conference which will be held in Arusha Tanzania in 2015. Karibuni sana na Asanteni sana.

Dolores E. Battle, PhD, CCC-SLP
ASHA Fellow

Convention Highlights

Thursday, April 10

What is your Favorite "NBASLH" memento?

Do you have a favorite bag, t-shirt, hat, pin or some other item from an NBASLH Convention? If so, bring it with you to the Opening Session on Thursday, April 10.



Do you have a favorite photo or NBASLH item you would like to display at the Convention?

NBASLH will have a display board at the Convention where you can display and share. (Please note that NBASLH will not be responsible for items displayed.)

Opening Session, Featuring Ms. Michelle R. Horton

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm



Ms. Horton will kick off this year's Convention with a presentation focusing on ***Moving People Forward.***

Michelle R. Horton is a first-generation college graduate and founder of YOUiversity Drive, LLC. After years as a corporate marketing and human resources executive, Michelle made the decision to change careers and enter the college classroom as a professor. Her experience was both eye-opening and motivating. As an educator, she made it her personal mission to address the gaps she observed between students' standard classroom instruction and their level of preparedness for the workforce. Her mission eventually expanded beyond the classroom and became the spark that ignited YOUiversity Drive.

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 11

Annual Membership Meeting

8:00 am – 9:00 am

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. Dedrick A. Russell a news reporter for WBTV in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Russell is currently an award winning education reporter for WBTV News 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. He received the Sigma Delta Chi award from the Society of Professional Journalists for a series entitled *The Troubled Ten*. He talked to principals from the 10 lowest performing high schools in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School District. School leaders shared with him their plan to turn the school around. Mr. Russell has been at WBTV for 10 years. His philosophy in life is never give up because dreams still do come true.

Enjoy Desserts and Dancing after the Awards Dinner. This year's sponsor for the Desserts and Dancing is Xavier 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 12

Student-Mentor Luncheon

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

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.

Sponsored by ASHA and NSSLHA



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
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ASSOCIATION



Sunday, April 13

Sunday Farewell

8:30 am – 9:30 am

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



NBASLH Executive Board

September 1, 2013 - August 31, 2014

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Advocacy on the Political Front and at Home

This SLP renewed her passion for support of rehabilitation services after she saw how they benefitted her mother.



Advocacy can take on many roles in our lives as speech-language pathologists and audiologists. I always felt that it was my duty, as an SLP, to not only give great patient care, but also to advocate for the rights of my patients. I feel a responsibility to make sure that my patients are empowered and make their voices heard by those who create laws that affect their daily lives.

My advocacy started at the state level for the maintenance of early childhood education programs and to ensure that policymakers heard the voice of my silenced patients. In addition, I encouraged families to advocate for themselves and tell their individual stories.

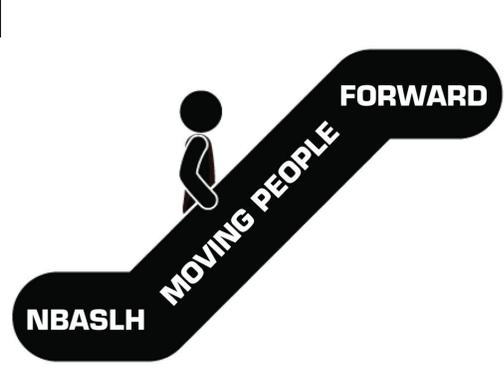
Then, one day I had to be an advocate in my personal life and had a story of my own. My mother, the picture of health and strength, suffered a subdural hematoma. I was no longer the SLP; now I was the patient's family. The situation looked very different from the other side of the hospital bed. Still I was able to make sure that my mother received the best care while in the hospital and ensure that she was aware of her options when she was discharged.

This stressful time in my family's life made me think about families that may not know their many alternatives following a loved one's discharge. The incredible recovery that I witnessed while my mother received speech treatment and occupational and physical therapy at an inpatient care facility was nothing short of a miracle! What about those who are unable to speak for themselves or may not know about these options? Who will tell their stories to make sure that they are heard?

Advocacy has been a vital part of my career as an SLP. My job does not end with assessment and treatment—it is only a portion of what makes up my responsibilities. I have participated in several visits to my members of Congress with the National Black Association of Speech-Language and Hearing and ASHA's political action committee to speak on behalf of not only my patients, but also my colleagues about issues that affect speech-language pathology and audiology.

My passion for advocacy led me to my current position on the ASHA-PAC Board of Directors, which encourages SLPs and audiologists to become more involved in advocacy issues relating to our field. After all, if we do not speak for our patients who cannot speak for themselves, who will?

Source: *The ASHA Leader*, <http://leader.pubs.asha.org/leader.aspx>



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.

Service Learning in the Bahamas



Howard University SLP students conduct language screenings using iPads.



During winter break, four master's students in communication sciences and disorders traveled to Nassau, Bahamas as part of an international service learning exchange.

Accompanied by Howard alumna Dr. Shameka Johnson, the trip was sponsored by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education administered by Dr. Kay T. Payne in conjunction with TECHnically Speaking, LLC. The opportunity was designed to provide students with an enriching cultural experience, hands-on experience with special needs children and exposure to the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) methods.

Students spent one week providing hearing, speech and language service at the Seahorse Institute. On the final day, they provided parents, caregivers and educators with a presentation on tips to increase the communicative ability of their child. The students share their reflections of the experience:

Tracey Calvo Clarke, Rodneisha Chanelle Davis, Sheena Newson
Howard University

Sheena Newson, 2nd year graduate student

This was the first of many new experiences for me-- first international trip, first time doing early intervention, first time working with special needs children and first experience with AAC. It taught me so many things and changed the way I think about my future in the profession, as well as my daily life. Seeing the children so happy, living to their fullest potential was extremely emotional and eye opening. It made me appreciate the beauty in life and realize that the challenges in my life are miniscule by comparison. The experience challenged me and tested my ability to apply what I have learned in my courses. One other amazing part was the exposure to Bahamian culture. It was great to experience a new culture up close and in person. The people were especially welcoming and willing to ensure that our stay was pleasurable. Most importantly, it made me realize the dire need for speech and language services in developing countries, and that I should not take our special education system, even with all its imperfections, for granted.

Chanelle Davis, 1st year graduate student

"My father went there, my uncles, even my wife!" As we flew over the water towards Nassau, the man sitting next to me was so enthused when I told him I attended Howard. This moment added to my realization of the pervasiveness of Howard's influence and reminded me of my responsibility to further Howard's prominence with my contributions. This opportunity allowed me to enhance my skills as a clinician and receive hands-on experience while applying academic knowledge. After participating in assessment and treatment with children at the Seahorse Institute, I increased my skill with children with developmental delays co-occurring with communication difficulties. A particular student who inspired me was a 16-year-old girl who had experienced five strokes from sickle cell disease, and had lost all of her speech four times. It was amazing to see how she had endured and excelled in receptive and expressive language. This trip allowed me to experience significant personal growth, as well as a changed perspective toward the importance of the profession I have chosen.

Tracey Calvo Clarke, 2nd year graduate student

As a graduate clinician, I was stretched and challenged with many firsts including how to use iPad apps for speech and language evaluation, early intervention evaluation, parent interviews (while simultaneously keeping the children occupied), observing and providing service to adolescents and adults with severe disabilities, and providing an in-service workshop for parents in plain language about communication and communication disorders. Overall, the trip proved to be extremely eye-opening and a crash-course clinical experience where I received feedback from supervisors on my strengths and weaknesses. The ability to have immediate feedback strengthened critical thinking and self-awareness. I benefited from hands-on learning as well as observations of the use of AAC in the classroom as dedicated communication devices. The experience allowed me to eat local cuisine, participate in the country's seasonal celebrations and learn of its economy and rich culture. I am thankful for the international learning and serving opportunity, one of many that will be a highlight in my graduate school journey.

Affiliate News



Southern California Affiliate member, Soloris Greene, spreading the word of NBASLH at a recent California State University, Los Angeles, NSSLHA event.

Member News

Sharon E. Moss, PhD, CRA, CAE, recently co-edited a publication: *The Informed Association: A Practical Guide to Using Research for Results*. You can find the publication in the bookstore on the ASAE website, www.asaecenter.org.

Brenda Everett Mitchell, PhD, CCC-SLP, recently completed her PhD in Leadership Studies from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University with a hooding ceremony on December 15, 2013, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Dr. Mitchell's dissertation topic was *The Relationship of Peer Mentoring, Academic Success and Social Engagement for First Year College Students*. She is currently an administrator in the Department of Allied Health Sciences with a faculty appointment in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Byron Ross, PhD, accepted the position of Graduate Coordinator at the University of Houston in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program. This is Dr. Ross's third year at the University of Houston after spending eight years at the University of Central Arkansas.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale Affiliate has been busy this fall.

- The group raised \$750 with campus bake sales. The bake sales are held every Friday from 10-2pm in the Wham/Pullium breezeway. All proceeds from the fundraisers will be used to attend the NBASLH Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Members accumulated 25+ volunteer hours at the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders on campus.
- The group held GRE study sessions every month for juniors and seniors to improve test rates and increase acceptance into desired graduate programs.
- Several members participated in bowling with special populations, which was held every Thursday in the campus bowling alley in the Student Recreation Center. This event allowed members to engage in meaningful conversations while assisting individuals with disabilities in intramural sports.
- Several members participated in creating an ADHD and Stuttering Awareness event on campus. Pamphlets, journal articles and a video were all provided to the campus. The members also created several engaging activities. This event was also a shared event with the local NSSLHA members as well.

Affiliates

Please be sure to send us your Affiliate news and activities for the year. We are gathering information for our Affiliate of the Year award and want to include your information.

Thanks,
Katrina Miller
NBASLH Affiliate Chair
millerk@nccu.edu



Congratulations to the following individuals for being a recipient of a 2013 ASHA Award:

Alex Johnson - Honors of the Association
Li-Rong Lilly Cheng - Honors of the Association
Thalia Coleman - Fellow
Yvette Hyter - Fellow
Silvia Martinez - Fellow

Dr. Harold R. Mitchell – The Torch Lighter

On January 21, 2014, the field of speech pathology lost a pioneering, visionary. Dr. Harold R. Mitchell, founder of the undergraduate and graduate speech pathology programs at Tennessee State University passed away at the age of 73.

From the beginning of his academic career, Dr. Mitchell devoted his energies to the field of speech pathology. He received his undergraduate degree from South Carolina State College in 1962. He received his master's degree in 1964 from the University of Denver and his doctorate from Ohio State University in 1972. It was during his doctoral studies that he met his other life long love, his wife Jacqueline, a fellow doctoral student in the field of speech pathology.

Having begun his undergraduate career at one of the few historically black colleges/universities with a program in speech pathology, Dr. Mitchell devoted his life's work to founding and becoming the department chair of the Speech Pathology and Audiology Department at Tennessee State University. A prolific grant writer, Dr. Mitchell acquired more than a million dollars in funding to assist students in realizing their dreams and to keep the ivory walls within the speech pathology department progressive and open.

In reviewing his very accomplished academic life, it becomes apparent that Dr. Mitchell channeled his grant writing talents in a manner that would enable students to receive financial assistance to attend graduate school. On multiple occasions, he served as project director on grants entitled *Training Minority Graduate Students as Communication Skills Specialists* and *Graduate and Professional Study Fellowships in Speech Pathology and*

Audiology. If he was not writing grants, he was dedicating his energies to recruiting students into the field. Students were truly his passion.

Dr. Mitchell was a proponent for multicultural awareness and diversity in the field and classroom. He promoted learning about other people's cultures, languages, histories, ideologies and beliefs. Described as a "world class traveler", Dr. Mitchell sponsored and accompanied numerous students to NBASLH and ASHA conventions. Among his many professional accomplishments was Directorship of the Study Abroad Summer Institute Program, which provided an opportunity for students and faculty to travel internationally. Dr. Mitchell's travels have taken him to destinations such as Yugoslavia, Belgium, the Dominican Republic, South Africa, the Gambia, Senegal, China, France, England, Mexico, Peru and Hawaii.



Leaders come in many forms, with many styles and diverse qualities. As a leader, Dr. Mitchell was an eloquent, humble visionary. As a professor and mentor, he challenged and helped his students thrive. As a colleague and friend, he was always there when needed. He was The Torch Lighter for the Department of Speech Pathology at Tennessee State University. Many in our beloved profession of speech pathology have benefitted from his wisdom in unselfishly knowing that it was more effective to light a torch than to bear it.

The flame created by Dr. Mitchell will continue to burn as current and future speech-language pathologists and their clients benefit from the visionary torch that he lit. He is very dearly missed but will never, ever be forgotten.



Do You Have News to Share?

Members are encouraged to submit items for consideration and publication in the **Resound** journal. 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** journal, please send your information to:

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



JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY®

**Jackson State University
College of Public Service
Chair, Communicative Disorders**

The College of Public Service invites applications and nominations for a Chair, tenure-track position at the Associate/Professor rank for fall 2014. The proposed beginning date is July 1, 2014. For optimum consideration, please submit your complete application no later than March 15, 2014. Salaries and ranks for the positions are negotiable and commensurate with educational background and professional accomplishments and experience.

Qualifications:

- A doctorate in an area of Communication Sciences or Disorders
- Eligible for appointment as a tenured associate or full professor
- Evidence of teaching and/or supervision excellence, with eligibility for licensure to provide services as a speech, language, and/or hearing professional
- An established record of external funding, publications, and community service are required
- Have three to five years of experience in a leadership role in an academic setting with skills in budgets
- Implementation of policies and procedures.

Responsibilities:

- Serve as the Program Director for the graduate program and be required to teach one class per semester
- Serve as the representative of the Program for the University, faculty, staff, students, and constituents
- Serve as an effective overseer of the day-to-day operations of the Program and to be responsible for student outcomes
- Oversee and monitor the accreditation process for the program
- Effectively manage program budget and other resources

Apply online to <https://jsums.peopleadmin.com>. Applicants should submit a curriculum vita, transcripts, three letters of professional recommendation, a written statement regarding philosophy pertaining to the teacher-researcher-scholar and a statement that pertains to the vision for the Communicative Disorders Program at Jackson State University. Applicants should respond to: *Mary Langford Hall, Ph.D. Search Committee, Chair*; mary.a.hall@jsums.edu, Jackson State University-College of Public Service, 2301-A West Woodrow Wilson Avenue, Jackson, MS 39213.



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Expand your boundaries (immersion/outreach programs)
 Become a leader (mentor, speaker, clinical researcher)
 Achieve your unique goals (ask how EBS can help you)

EBS IS A PROUD 2014 NBASLH PARTNER AND SPONSOR OF THE OPENING SESSION AND THE PRAXIS REVIEW LUNCHEON

Make sure to stop by our booth to see why SLPs are so excited about EBS

