



WSHA NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

By Lynda Coyle, WSHA President

A message from **Eileen Crowe**, Director of State Association Relations at ASHA dated 10/30/07:

Congratulations! ASHA's Executive Board has renewed your association's recognition. A recognition ceremony will take place at the start of the CSAP meeting in Boston with ASHA's President and VP for Governmental and Social Policies. Hope to see you in Boston.

On behalf of the members of WSHA, Christiane Dechert and I accepted the recognition certificate at the CSAP meeting in Boston in November from ASHA President, Noma Anderson and VP for Governmental and Social Policies, Dee Ann Owre. It was an added pleasure in accepting this award from Dee Ann as she is a UW graduate! She fondly recalled the days of staying in Ross Hall when it was just a dormitory and going through the program in the early days. The recognition will be effective immediately and is good for another five years. Thank you to all the Executive Board members and others who provided input to securing the revision of the WSHA By-laws and subsequent renewal as a state association.



Lynda Coyle and Christiane Dechert receive ASHA recognition at CSAP

WSHA has a new CE Administrator

As stated in the ASHA Leader (September 4, 2007) there are more than 500 organizations that are approved to offer courses for ASHA CEUs. These "providers" include state and local associations. For the past several years, Tempe Murphy has been the designated CE Administrator for our state association. This past October, Renetta Mischke, received approval from ASHA to be the next CE Administrator for WSHA. She will start this role with guidance from Tempe in 2008.

Some of you may not know that administrators receive training through an on line tutorial, dedicated Web site, quarterly newsletter, and ongoing access to ASHA CE staff. The primary role of the CE Administrator is to ensure compliance with all CE policies and procedures. On behalf of the association, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Tempe for her years of service in this role. She has secured hours of continuing education approval for WSHA, the University of Wyoming, and other organizations within the state. Thanks, Tempe and welcome Renetta!!

WSHA announces a new President-Elect and Treasurer

Thank you to all members who were prompt in returning your ballot! It is with great pleasure that WSHA announces that the President-Elect for 2008 will be Laramie (and hopeful Cheyenne) resident, Anna Anderson. The new treasurer will be Cody resident, Kim Lewis. Please congratulate, welcome and thank them for accepting these volunteer positions for the upcoming years. Read more about each of them below:

Anna Anderson, President-Elect is a speech-language pathologist at the Cheyenne VA Medical Center and Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. With her husband, Dean, they are blessed parents of three-year old twins, Lauren and Lucas. Anna is a former WSHA scholarship recipient and a graduate of the University of Wyoming. She has served as the Home Town Captain for the 2007 WSHA convention when it was in Laramie. As stated in her ballot biography, she believes in the pay-scale recognition of the Certificate of Clinical Competence and mentorship as the best means of recruitment. Congratulations, Anna!

Kim Lewis, Treasurer works at the Children's Resource Center in Cody with the 0-5 population. She also received her master's degree from the University of Wyoming via the distance program. Her training for the role of treasurer includes serving as secretary/treasurer for local organizations, book-keeping for a cattle ranch and owning her own speech therapy business for two years. Besides her work as an SLP, Kim and her husband, Gary, are the proud parents of a 2007 UW graduate, Lyndsey. They also have another daughter, Jennifer. Congratulations, Kim!

Reflections on my year as President

I will end my year as president as I began it, with a quote by Margaret Mead that proudly hangs in my office:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Never was this quote truer than in the last year. With the restructuring of the WSHA Executive Board, state convention, IMASH convention-planning, CSAP and more, I have repeatedly learned how much we who are involved in volunteer positions for professional organizations have in common. It really is just a bunch of committed individuals in places just like Wyoming that are the instigators of change and the bearers of continuity.

I have enjoyed meeting new people, establishing collaborations both personal and professional and forging ahead the vision of the state association. Through various encounters, I have learned that Wyoming-ites are well-regarded among our national organization in terms of that volunteer spirit and dedication to best practices. Each of you represents these ideals in your own unique way but it is often *together* that we may see the biggest impact. I have had the privilege of wearing different “hats” while representing our state as its president. As the Clinic Director for the University of Wyoming’s only communication disorders program, I could not help but have my role as WSHA president overlap with my current job. I am thrilled to see how many former students have answered the call to volunteering by their membership within the association or to board positions as evidenced by next year’s president-elect and new treasurer, Anna Anderson and Kim Lewis, both UW graduates. I believe strongly in a “pay it forward” philosophy as this is the cornerstone not only of clinical education (i.e., supervision) but of volunteerism. I hope that I have led by example during this past year and challenge each of you to look ahead in your own professional lives and determine what your contribution might be for the future of our state organization. I look forward to serving in 2008 as your past-president. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Enjoy the upcoming holidays with family and friends!

Sincerely,
Lynda D. Coyle

“We may work in UT, WY, ID, MT and CO but we will gather in 2008 in a place called, *utewydahotanarado*, otherwise known as IMASH.”

By Cathy Ross

The IMASH website is up and running. Go to: imash@robertcraven.com or to the WSHA website for information. In early January, there will be a call for papers posted to the website. Each of the 5 participating states, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana and Colorado,

what is affectionately being called, *utewydahotanarado*, is counting on its memberships to submit papers for presentations and / or posters for the October, 2008 meeting. This means that we all need to look deep within ourselves, our work environments and our educational institutions to ask people who might be willing to contribute to the success of another IMASH convention. Regular updates about the conference will be posted on each state’s website and provided by the management team, Craven and Associates located in Pittsburgh.

There is another student-based contest, similar to the last ‘College Bowl’ being planned following the game show, “Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?” called, ‘Are You Smarter than a Graduate Student?’. As before, the teams will be comprised of students, state association members and educational faculty. Start thinking about who will make up YOUR (winning) team as it is never too early to start preparing for the questions! It is anticipated that the questions will again be based on the Praxis exam.

WSHA SEAL

By, Ann Wambeke

Dear Fellow WSHA Members,

The State Education Advocacy Leader (SEAL) Committee is continuing to pursue the possibility of working with the Wyoming Education Association (WEA) in order to lobby the state for a \$4000.00 salary supplement for speech-language pathologists and audiologists working in Wyoming schools with their CCC’s. This supplement is equivalent to the salary supplement received by teachers who received their National Board Certification. Presently, I am in correspondence with the president of WEA and with ASHA as well as with various WSHA members who have been extremely helpful in gathering information and generating ideas. Presently, we are waiting to hear from the WEA to know if they will consider lobbying for our cause. If you are a WEA member, this may be a good time to contact your local representative on our behalf. We will keep you informed through the newsletter; however, you may contact me at wambeke@wavecom.net at any time.

News from UWyo:

UW Students present at WSHA and ASHA:

Kimberly Wilkerson, a second year master’s student in speech-language pathology at the University of Wyoming, was awarded an ASHA Student Research Travel Award. Kimberly will present her thesis research at the 2007 ASHA Convention in Boston in November. She and Sarah Rose Beddes, along with their theses chair, Teresa Ukrainetz, will present a combined poster, entitled, ***An Investigation of Three Approaches to Phonemic Awareness Instruction***. They received additional funding to help defray costs from the Division

of Communication Disorders through the Kahn Foundation.

In these two theses, along with an earlier thesis by Janae Nuspl (MS'06), these student researchers investigated the effects of teaching: (a) syllables before phonemes and; (b) first sound tasks only versus first sound, segmenting, and blending tasks simultaneously with systematic scaffolding. Approximately 40 preschoolers were taught for 4-6 weeks in balanced groups randomly assigned to three treatment conditions. For the first question, results showed that a shorter training period without syllables first had the same gains as syllable plus phonemes, and there was none of the confusion that showed when children shifted from phonemes to syllables. For the second question, results showed that when 3 tasks are taught together, children learned first sounds just as well, and blending and segmenting better compared to when only taught first sounds.

Kimberly and Sarah Rose are busy graduate students. In addition to their studies and carrying out their theses, they led a well-attended roundtable discussion on this topic at the 2007 WSHA Convention in Casper last month. After they defend their theses and present at ASHA this fall, they (and Janae who is now in the Florida schools) will work with Teresa Ukrainetz to write a manuscript for submission to one of the ASHA journals.

Proud Students!

The University of Wyoming NSSLHA chapter is glowing with pride after donating hearing aids to a person in need. The project began with last year's NSSLHA members when money was raised to buy a set of hearing aids with the aspiration of donating them to a low-income patient in need of hearing aids. The project carried through to this year's NSSLHA members, as it took a while until a recipient from the Laramie area was found. Current officers, President Christie Samuelson; Vice President Lindsay Bierma; and Secretary/Treasurer, Lisa Praeuner are pleased to have helped give back to the community. Thank you to Phonak for donating the hearing aids to WSHA's silent auction in 2006 in the first place and also to Teresa Garcia, audiologist, who helped to locate the recipient! NSSLHA's next community project is to volunteer time at the University of Wyoming's Community Health Fair, which will be held Saturday, November 3rd in the UW Health Sciences Building in Laramie.



NSSLHA officers Christie Samuelson, Lisa Praeuner, and Lindsay Bierma with the person who received the hearing aid.

Congratulations to the 2007 WSHA Scholarship Recipient:

Catherine Brown from Dallas, Texas is a junior at the University of Wyoming this year. Majoring in both Speech-Language Pathology and the Honors Program, she is very involved in her sorority Delta Delta Delta and various organizations on campus such as the National Student Speech Hearing Association, Community Health Advancement Program and the University of Wyoming co-ed cheerleading squad. Catherine is excited about the upcoming challenges and opportunities that UW offers through the SLP major and hopes to finish her undergraduate as well as graduate degrees in Laramie.



Catherine Brown, 2007 WSHA Scholarship Recipient

WSHA 2008 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Christa Vandervort, WSHA Membership Co-Chair

The 2008 membership renewal effort is in full swing for WSHA, with 76 new/renewal memberships received with convention registrations or at convention!! Busy Bee Bath Essentials in Green River provided the gift baskets that were awarded in the drawing held for those who renewed their memberships at convention or with their registrations. Debbie Crist received the ladies' basket and Michael Pilcher received the men's basket. Thank you to all of you who renewed your memberships or joined WSHA with new memberships!

In an effort to keep the WSHA Directory information current, something a bit different was tried this year – a copy of the WSHA 2007 Directory was at the registration desk so members could update their information on it rather than each of us having to fill out a new membership renewal form. Many of you had written your current, updated information in this Directory when it disappeared from the registration table... We tried to catch as many of you as possible for updates on another copy of the Directory, but I don't think we got to everyone who had written on the first copy (the one that disappeared.) If you think that you have information that needs to be updated, please do not hesitate to e-mail me with it or fill out a membership form and mail it to me. I will greatly appreciate all of your efforts to keep WSHA informed of your latest contact information, and I am truly sorry for the inconvenience and extra effort required by the loss of the updated information we had collected.

When renewal notices were sent out in November, 57 notices were sent out via e-mail and 10 via regular mail. When everyone renews their membership, WSHA should have a record number of members! To date there have been four students who have applied for WSHA sponsored membership while eight WSHA members have sponsored students, so we encourage any students who wish to be WSHA members to fill out a membership form, have their advisor sign it, and mail it in to be included in the WSHA Directory and have the other benefits of WSHA membership. And of course any WSHA members who would like to sponsor a student are encouraged to do so when they renew their own membership.

One last note: A new member paid their dues and sent in a completed membership form in August or September, 2007, and I deposited their check but lost (I am sooo sorry!) their membership form before I got any of their information entered in the WSHA laptop...so, please check with your colleagues to see if any of them have paid their dues and not received a membership card, an e-mailed receipt, or any other acknowledgement from WSHA. We do want to be able to include this new member's information in the Directory and make sure they receive the benefits of WSHA membership.

Thank you to all of you who support WSHA so faithfully!

Christa Vandervort, WSHA Membership Co-Chair
1145 Mountain View, Green River, WY 82935
vandervortpc@wyoming.com

ATTENTION 2008 WSHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

The first **board executive board meeting** of the year will take place in Casper on January 12. **All WSHA members** are most cordially invited to attend. Please email chdecher@wyoming.com for an update on the location of the meeting.



WSHA RECEIVES ART DONATION

WSHA is grateful to Laramie Artist Ed Clark for donating one of his paintings to the Convention for the Exhibitors Prize. The painting is entitled "**WYOMING, WHERE SHEEP MAY SAFELY GRAZE**" and was valued at \$1,200.

Ed is of Norwegian background and holds an MFA from the University of Wyoming. He exhibits his work in various places, most recently participated in the Governor's exhibition of Wyoming artists. He is employed by the University of Wyoming Transit System. The painting was won by Beverly McIntire, convention attendee who coincidentally also has Norwegian ancestry and lives in an area in Wyoming, where in fact sheep graze frequently, albeit not always safely.



Artist Ed Clark

2007 WSHA CONFERENCE SYNOPSIS

By, President-Elect, Christiane Dechert

It has been a few months since we met at the end of September, with beautifully mild weather, to commence the 2007 WSHA Convention. Casper, the heart of Wyoming, enjoyed a long fall season, suggesting that while global warming reeks havoc in other parts of the world, in Wyoming it has lead to weather not all that unwelcome. As I sit here appreciating more typical weather conditions, I am reflecting on some of the many conference highlights.

This year, the WSHA Convention was shorter than usual, two full days, but participation was great, and many expressed approval for the streamlined schedule. The conference attracted at least 120 WSHA members and guests. Speakers addressed a host of relevant topics applicable to multiple work settings and diverse clientele. Some speakers were nationally known, such as Drs. Florence Blager, Barbara Moore Brown, Tom Thunder, and Julie Wambaugh. Others were experts that live and work in our state or neighboring states, such as Marcia Kelley and Angela Haas. We featured several roundtables on a variety of topics, led by WSHA members, including an excellent session hosted by two

UW graduate students, Sarah Rose Beddes and Kimberly Wilkerson. Several vendors attended and presented their ware, such as Super Duper Publications and AugCom Solutions and we appreciated their participation, knowing how difficult it is to attract exhibitors to small state conventions.

Members and guests who responded to requests for feedback gave an overwhelming “thumbs up” to presenters, indicating that topics were timely and practical and that their delivery was dynamic and well organized. Participants appreciated the involvement of association members in the program as well as the opportunity for networking and camaraderie. Your concerns and criticisms about the Convention facilities have been forwarded to the conference establishment. We were likewise disappointed by the accommodations.

Certainly, the social highlight of the convention was a fabulously catered dinner at the a Nicolaysen Museum, where members had access to a modern art exhibition of international caliber. The entertainment of the evening featured a local dance instructor, who got members and guest on their feet with an energetic and informative clogging lesson.

None of the memorable activities would have been possible without the volunteer efforts of UW undergraduate and graduate students. Their behind the scenes work as well as overt support, such as hosting sessions and introducing speakers, helped all parts of the conference run more smoothly. Thank you, Lindsay Bierma, Jessie Boss, Alisa Carswell, Melissa Doherty, Alee Glass, Chrissy Kopetsky, Tara Miller, Rebecca Pawlowski, Amy Peterson, Lisa Praeuner, Christie Samuelson, Ashley Smith, Shaylynn Todd, Kimberly Wilkerson, Amanda Woods, and Lindsey Worrall! Other WSHA members stand out with helping organize and run ventures that are traditionally part of our conventions, such as the silent auction. We are grateful to Emily Trujillo and the Casper Home Team, and 2007 WSHA President Lynda Coyle. Finally, many thanks go to WSHA members for their generosity in donating gifts to the silent auction, which again generated substantial revenues this year.

We look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City for the 2008 IMASH Convention at the beginning of October, where we will join members from the state associations from Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Utah for another great interstate conference! We hope that you can join us and represent our Wyoming state association membership at the conference!

Cordially,
Christiane Dechert
2007 WSHA President-Elect



Everyone associated with the production of this newsletter wish to extend the warmest of **Season's Greetings and Happy Holliday Wishes** to all WSHA Members!!

We look forward to a **Happy and Prosperous 2008**