

the **KSHA** Communicator

a publication of the
Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association



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President’s Message

Tim Ball, MA, CCC-SLP

The 2014 KSHA Convention is in the books, and by all accounts, it was another success. With more than 1,000 attendees, along with 77 continuing education sessions, it’s safe to say there was something for everyone. Thankfully, the weather cooperated and winter decided to take a few days off. Hopefully everyone was able to travel to and from Convention safely.

It’s hard to believe that so much can be packed in to just a few days, but thanks to our fantastic Convention Directors Tina Brock and Christie LaCharite, along with the entire Convention Committee, they once again pulled it off.

Speaking of pulling it off, congratulations to the University of Louisville for winning this year’s PRAXIS bowl, in dramatic fashion with their own

version of March Madness. This year’s event went into overtime with the team from Derby City taking home the Golden Brain.

A lot can be said about the 2014 KSHA Convention, but the word that comes to my mind is “INSPIRED”. Everywhere we looked we saw stories of inspiration that remind us why we do what we do. We were inspired by the touching story of our keynote speaker Leon Sirois. Leon suffered from a significant problem with stuttering since age three and we were inspired by his resolution to work through intensive therapy to increase his fluency at age 65. He was an amazing speaker. He certainly illustrated what some of our patients/students/clients go through as he said he would much rather have been in a race car going over 200 mph than to speak in front of a group of people.

We were inspired by our award winners. Chloe Patrick is a 13 year old 8th grader with bilateral cochlear implants. She is

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KSHA Update: Finances

As of fiscal year end July 31, 2013, KSHA had net assets of \$373,314 which reflect an increase of 12% over fiscal year 2012. Fortunately, this growth has allowed us to achieve the goal of establishing a reserve equal to 100% of our operating budget. KSHA is a financially strong and healthy association. You might be wondering why having a year in reserves is critical. As you know, natural disasters occur everywhere in the world. Kentucky is no exception. You can imagine what would happen if a catastrophic event occurred. A year in reserves protects the integrity of KSHA and helps us pursue strategies to increase the value of the membership and to ensure that KSHA remains vibrant into the future.

We have strong support from our members and attendees at Convention. The support of our sponsors and exhibitors is an important element of this success. Thank you KSHA members.

President's Message

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paying it forward by raising money and recycling hearing aids and equipment for those in need. Chloe was given the KSHA Certificate of Appreciation for her work to establish The Chloe Foundation. To date The Chloe Foundation has raised more than \$20,000 worth of funds and equipment, and it's still growing! Dr. Deborah Haydon was also given the KSHA Certificate of Appreciation. As Chair of the Department of Special Education, Dr. Haydon has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Communication Disorder Program at EKU. Her support for the EKU students, faculty, staff and program is an inspiration for us all.

We were inspired by Linda Gregory, who was given the Hancock award for her dedication and service to KSHA over the years. Linda, who received the DiCarlo award from ASHA, continues to inspire as she was selected to be President-Elect of KSHA at this year's business meeting.

Also during the business meeting, I announced KSHA's 2014 advocacy campaign that begins in May—just in time for Better Speech and Hearing Month! We want to inspire ALL members of KSHA to become more involved as advocates and ambassadors for our profession, our association and most importantly, our patients, clients and students. Our advocacy campaign,

30 in 30 challenges EVERY KSHA member to engage in 30 minutes of advocacy every 30 days until MAY 2015! Think about it: with close to 1,500 members we could actively engage in 850 hours of advocacy per month! By May 2015, our advocacy would total more than 10,000 hours in just one year! Read more about **30 in 30** on Page 7. Be inspired! Refuse to do nothing.

In the coming weeks KSHA will venture into new territory to serve our members as we hold elections for two offices. Vice President of Schools and Vice President of Healthcare will be selected by membership vote. These positions, along with Vice President of Higher Education, will advise the President and President-Elect on many issues that face an organization as large as KSHA. I encourage everyone to take part in the process. Once candidate profiles are posted, please review the information and cast your ballot for these important positions.

Several people commented that they liked the new process of recording CEU's online this year. KSHA continues to strive to meet the needs of the membership by updating our online services to better serve you. Thank you for your feedback!

KSHA is a fantastic organization, and I'm proud to be part of it and I look forward to seeing everyone next year in Louisville!

Cardinals Win Battle of the Brain Douglas Keefe



With a Sugar Bowl Championship in Football, a National Championship in Men's Basketball, a National Championship Runner-

Up in Women's Basketball and a trip to The College World Series in Baseball, one would think that the University of Louisville had achieved the pinnacle of success.

Now, add to that the most impressive feat of all; a three-peat Championship in the KSHA PRAXIS Competition!

The team of Emily Hall, Allie Fleming, Lindsey Nolan and Britt Washhausen from U of L once again claimed the State Championship and will be proudly displaying the coveted "Golden Brain" trophy for a third straight year.

This year's battle was especially hard-fought. After a 25 question opening round draw and a tie with a multiple point bonus question, the teams from Murray State University and Louisville battled through seven rounds of sudden death overtime before U of L answered the deciding question correctly

to take home the \$800 first-place prize. The Murray State Team of Kayla Freeman, Mary Grace Starks, Kalynn Hightower and Emily Lee did not leave empty-handed taking home \$200 for second place. Thanks to LinguSystems for making this scholarship money available for the participants in this year's competition.

We look forward to continuing this tradition at next year's convention and in years to come.

KSHA-Con Rewind

Tina Brock and Christie LaCharite



Thank you for accepting your invitation and thank you for an awesome 2014 KSHA Convention. This year we had 1,078 of our KSHA attendees join us in Northern Kentucky for the Annual Convention. We are so thankful to have had the opportunity to bring all of our incredible speakers and our wonderful members to Northern Kentucky. We had gorgeous weather, which helped to get our many members to the Convention safely.

We would like to take this opportunity to send a special thank you to Melissa Joseph and the Craven Management team for their continued support and expert leadership. We held a successful Convention because of their guidance, the hard work of our amazing planning

committee and the dedication of our members who attended the Convention.

Please take the opportunity to "save the date" for our 2015 KSHA Convention coming up next February 25-28, 2015, in Louisville, Kentucky. We are excited to see what presenters will be there to provide us with further skills and further education.

Thank you again for attending the 2014 KSHA Convention. It is our hope that you gained new knowledge and insight to enhance your journey in **CREATING OPPORTUNITIES** that will continue to **IMPACT THE LIVES** of your patients, clients and students.



KSHA Convention Highlights

Silent Auction

A special thank you to all of those who bid against their colleagues and friends for the wonderful items displayed by the Universities! Your support is truly appreciated by the students and their Universities.

1st Place
University of Kentucky \$952

2nd Place
University of Louisville \$802

Honorable Mentions go to:
Eastern \$ 326
Western \$ 169

Awards Luncheon

Johanna B. Hancock Award
Linda Gregory

Certificates of Appreciation
Dr. Deborah Haydon
Chloe Patrick

Stanley and Steckol Award
Claire Cannady
Margaret Barnett

PRAXIS Teams

Also thank you to all of the participants in this year's PraxiS competition.

EKU Eastern Kentucky University;
Melinda Hamm, Amber Speedy,
Candace Moberly, Kaylyn Evans

WKU Western Kentucky University;
Liz Lutz, Dalana Henson, Whitney
Killebrew, Kathryn Greer

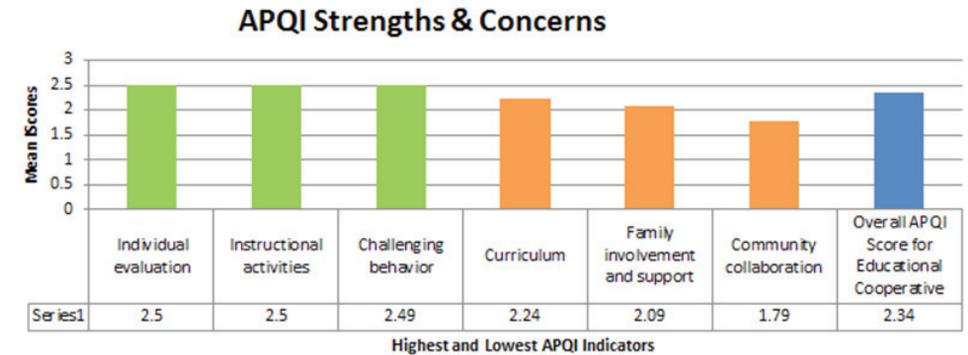
UK University of Kentucky; Kate
Leeper, Lori Harris, Dana
Vogel, Katie Rush

Assessment of Services

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results showed that the educational cooperative as a whole received an overall mean score of exactly .80.

The results of this research were important to school districts because it proved that district level staff (directors of special education) and district autism team members (special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, school psychologists, etc.) had relatively comparable views of the current level of implementation of school-based autism services. Matched views revealed that directors of special education had accurate perceptions concerning the autism programs within their districts as did district autism team members (even in differing roles). Despite limited interaction with students with autism spectrum disorders in a classroom-type setting, directors of special education still demonstrated views of services for this population that were similar to service providers who have daily contact with students with ASD. Since a content match between the recommendations set forth by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders and the indicators on the APQI was completed, districts were able to use the scores on the APQI to determine whether or not their school-



based autism programs/services were meeting national recommendations.

The appropriate evaluation and implementation of school-based autism services is essential to every student with an autism spectrum disorder. Growing numbers of students in the educational setting, growing needs of students and growing concerns for the financial costs demonstrate the growing need for full evaluation and implementation of essential program components with all students with ASD. School districts must continually evaluate their autism programs to ensure they are meeting national recommendations. The Autism Program Quality Indicators provides an effective way for districts to complete these essential program evaluations.

References

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- National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders. (2008). Session 3, Lesson B: Assessment for Autism Spectrum Disorders. In *Foundations of autism spectrum disorders: An online course*. Chapel Hill, NC: FPG Child Development Institute, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- University of the State of New York. (2001). *Autism program quality indicators. A self-review and quality improvement guide for schools and programs serving students with autism spectrum disorders*. Albany, NY: New York State Education Department.
- Roden, L.A. (2011). *Response to autism: An assessment of services for students with autism in Kentucky's public schools*. Doctoral dissertation. Retrieved from: <http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/diss/16>

Find Us Online



Connect With KSHA

Visit the KSHA website, www.ksha.info, and make sure your KSHA membership is up-to-date. Log on to the Member Center of the website, enter your Last Name and your Member Number. Once logged in, you are able to edit your membership information, such as mailing address, email address, professional information and more.

The Member Center also gives you access to renew your membership, register for an event at the member discounted rate, search for a member, access member-only resources, print your membership card and read the **KSHA Communicator**.

Be sure to check out the **Full-Color KSHA Communicator** online at www.ksha.info.

Follow KSHA on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/kyspeech> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/KYSPEECH>.





My Journey to Preparing for the PRAXIS

Andi Gardenhire, MS, CF-SLP

I have recently completed my master's degree in communication disorders at Western Kentucky University through their online distance learning program. The program was rigorous but I did well in all of my classes. You would think with all of the studying and preparing for classes and exams, I would be prepared for the PRAXIS exam, but you'd be WRONG!

I ordered the The Advanced Review in Speech-Language Pathology and took the included practice test following my first clinical experience (a 6-week intensive clinical "boot camp" at the WKU Speech Clinic) in the Summer of 2012. I was scheduled to take the exam in May of 2013. I did not fare well on the practice test. I was a little surprised by how specific some of the practice questions were and how much I just wasn't quite sure about. So, in the midst of my first clinical externship and a full course load, I set out to get ready to pass this monster of a test!

I decided to follow a monthly study schedule that should get me through the entire Advanced Review book with 1 month left to take practice tests before test day. Despite my well devised study schedule and best intentions I wasn't able to stick to my rigorous study routine. There was no way I could keep up with the three classes I was taking online at night,

my full time externship, my family, my PRAXIS study schedule and find time to sleep. I was drowning! It was all I could do to get my assignments in on time and actively participate at my clinical placement daily. Unfortunately, my PRAXIS studying went out the window.

I finished the fall of 2012, semester and took a much needed break for the Christmas holidays. I was determined to get back on track for PRAXIS studying following the break. In the Spring of 2013, I began my second clinical externship along with another semester of classes. As the Spring semester got underway it became painfully evident that there was no way I was going to be able to make it through the entire Advanced Review before test day and it was at this point I began referring to it as D-Day!

I expressed some of my PRAXIS anxiety to my clinical supervisor that semester. She was wonderful and very open about her PRAXIS experience. At her university she was required to take exit exams in the areas of clinical competencies prior to graduation. She confessed that she studied so much for her exit exams that her PRAXIS studying fell to the wayside. She also confided that the studying she did for her exit exams more than prepared her for the PRAXIS which she passed on her first attempt. Although she could not offer me study tips she did share with me old practice exams she had taken.

I decided to begin there. I took three different practice exams: one from my clinical supervisor, one from the USB stick that came with the Advanced Review book and one that I obtained from a fellow graduate student in my program. I scored all three exams, looked at the areas of study where I had difficulty and the format of the questions I missed. I went back to the Advanced Review and spent the next couple of months studying these areas I had identified as troublesome for me. I also signed up to have PRAXIS study tips sent to me via email. These were tips for standardized exam taking and also included specific facts from the field of speech-language pathology.

Three weeks prior to D-day I began taking practice tests again. I retook the practice exams I took originally as well as all the tests off of the Advanced Review USB and a practice test I purchased from the ETS website. I had improved upon my previous scores and scored above passing on every test I took. I felt that I was ready.

The actual exam was most similar to the practice test I purchased from ETS. There were no questions with options for all of the above or none of the above which was a huge relief. I did not feel that any one topic was represented any more than any other topic. The questions were specific, referencing specific neurological disorders and syndromes. I took the computer based exam and was pleased to see that I could tag questions for later review, skip questions and navigate quickly and easily through the exam. I completed the exam with plenty of time to review my answers. I felt confident with most of my answers but must confess there were several that I had to outright guess on. I pressed submit and my score showed up immediately. I PASSED! It was a huge relief. I took the test on a Saturday morning and slept the rest of the weekend. It was exhausting!

My study method was not perfect. It was a major balancing act to study, keep up with school and succeed in my clinical placements. In the end I found a method that worked for me. I could not be more thrilled to say I have completed my Master's and began working in August of 2013.

Information to help you plan your own PRAXIS prep:

Hegde, M. N., and McKibbin-Roseberry, C. (2011). *An Advanced Review of Speech Language Pathology: Preparation for PRAXIS and Comprehensive Examination—Third Edition Book & Flash Drive*. ISBN#: 9781416404842. www.proedinc.com

Educational Testing Service (ETS). *The PRAXIS Series*. <http://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/materials/0330>

KSHA's 2014 Advocacy Campaign

Tim Ball, MA, CCC-SLP

If you have ever been to the circus or even watched the show America's Got Talent, no doubt you have seen performers who are fantastically skilled at the art of spinning plates on sticks. With years of dedicated practice and a commitment to their craft, these acrobats are able to wow audiences across the globe with their abilities. They are astonishing to watch as they are able to keep dozens of things going at the same time, all the while being ever mindful to attend to a matter when it starts to wobble before it crashes. As speech-language pathologists, we just call this Tuesday.

Like those performers, we keep our plates spinning providing services to our students and patients, documenting and writing reports, meeting with parents, families, teachers, and a host of other professionals. Although we may have ideas, some professional areas simply don't get the attention from us that they deserve and need. One critical area, in which we could all do more, is advocacy.

On-going advocacy is essential to create positive change for our profession. In the last month, KSHA members acted as ambassadors of our profession and led the charge of advocacy with policy makers in Frankfort regarding the salary stipend for speech-language pathologists in the Schools. On the national level, KSHA and ASHA have identified dozens of issues that affect us as professionals and the families we serve.

Along with advocacy, we carry the role of ambassadors of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Helping the public better understand our practice as professionals will increase our voice with the public and improve awareness of what we do. This effectively advocates for us as often

the people making decisions are not fully aware of all the plates we spin.

To encourage us to increase our advocacy and ambassadorship activity, KSHA challenges you to take the **30 in 30 pledge** for 2014-2015. We are asking you to commit 30 minutes every 30 days to participate in some form of advocacy or public relations work.

Just
30
minutes
in
30
days

Right now, KSHA has 1,500 members. If we do the math, it is amazing what is within our power to accomplish!

$1,500 \times 30 \text{ minutes} = 750 \text{ hours per month, translating to 9,000 hours per year of Advocacy and Ambassadorship for Speech/Pathology and Audiology. That is amazing to me every time I read it!}$

During the month of May, KSHA will kick off our **30 in 30 campaign** for Better Hearing and Speech Month. Participation is simple. Go to the KSHA website at www.ksha.info. Click on the **30 in 30** link and add your name to the list of KSHA members who are committed to do 30 minutes of advocacy and ambassadorship every 30 days for the next 12 months!

Once you take the pledge, the types of activities you can do are really up to you. We want to honor what you are doing. Every KSHA member who takes the pledge will get a **30 in 30 ribbon** to wear at the 2015 KSHA Convention. Also, at Convention, we'll display a poster recognizing all members and the activities they completed during our **30 in 30 advocacy campaign**.

Choose an activity that is best for you ... but please DO SOMETHING! KSHA's power is our members and our members are powerful. I ask you to join me in taking the pledge for **30 in 30** and spin those plates. I'm in. Are you?



- Sending an email or phone to your state representative or senator is always a good place to start.
- You can talk with your school district leaders about the salary stipend of OPGES.
- Discuss the implications of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) with other health care providers
- Talk to your local high school during Career Day to encourage students to consider a career in Communication Disorders
- Provide hearing screenings to the people in your office or school
- Talk to the local PTO or parent group about Speech Pathology and Audiology Services
- Read up on ASHA's Advocacy programs on the ASHA website and find out how to get involved
- Conduct an education session for First Steps providers in your area
- Present (or assist with presenting) a session at KSHA
- Volunteer to serve on a KSHA committee
- Ask that your employer promote your services in the newspaper or online during May for BSHM
- Participate in the online ASHA Community discussion forum on various topics



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Upcoming Events

May 2014

Summer *Communicator*

Deadline

May 1, 2014

September 2014

Call for Papers

Deadline

September 1, 2014

December 2014

Membership Renewals

Deadline

December 31, 2014

February 2015

KSHA Convention

Louisville, KY

February 25-28, 2015

 Tell us what you think!

The KSHA Communicator would love to hear from you!

Tell us what you think about our new style.

Tell us what you want to READ about in the upcoming issues.

If you have or are currently working as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist in a medical setting, we would love for you to tell us what we should write. ... Or better yet, go ahead and write about your story, your favorite new clinical strategy or your amazing mentor!

Send your feedback, ideas, suggestions for improvement and writings to write4ksha@gmail.com today!