



# Resound))))))

Summer 2007

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

**National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing**

**Website: [nbaslh.org](http://nbaslh.org)**

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## From the Chair



When I first heard about NBASLH and its conventions, I knew I had to find it, to be there, to witness.

It was the forum for my first professional presentation prepped by members Harriette Gregg and Gwendolyn Wilson. This exposure led to my first university job offer facilitated by member Eugene Wiggins. Two conventions later, as program co-chair, along with member Marcella Coleman led to my first Board election. Two terms as Board member catapulted me to Board Chair of this national association, another first for me.

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***“I had to find it, to be there, to witness”***

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My involvement in NBASLH alternates between service interspersed with unexpected gifts of opportunities, comraderie and belief. This belief in me said, we see something, we call you to service, and we commission you to walk in our light.

As Chair, my goal is to continue to inspire and commission others but will need your commitment to help expand our membership. We can do this by exciting others through our programs, mentoring and advocacy offerings and serving with passion.

NBASLH believes in me the same way I believe in it. We serve, support and bolster each other. I am NBASLH and NBASLH is me.

***Cathy Runnels***

Cathy Runnels, M.S., CCC-SLP  
NBASLH Chair



## 2008 Convention Call For Papers

NBASLH is now accepting Call for Papers for the 2008 Convention. Please visit the website at [www.nbaslh.org](http://www.nbaslh.org) to submit your presentation.

The Convention will be held on April 17-19, 2008 at the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City. Educational programs can be in the form of sessions or poster presentations.

To submit your Call for Paper, log on to the NBASLH website [www.nbaslh.org](http://www.nbaslh.org)

**Deadline for submissions is:**

**November 1, 2007**

If you have any questions, please contact the NBASLH Office at 412-366-1177 or [nbaslh@nbaslh.org](mailto:nbaslh@nbaslh.org).

### 2008 Convention

Doubletree Hotel  
Crystal City,  
Washington DC Area  
April 17-19, 2008

**Doubletree Hotel Crystal City**

**Room Rates:**

**\$159 Single/Double**

**\$179 Triple**

**\$199 Quad**



# Silent Auction to Benefit the Student Research Award

During the 2007 Convention, NBASLH conducted the first Silent Auction to benefit the Student Research Award. A total of \$693 was raised at the first auction

In order for the 2008 auction to be a success, we would like you (universities, companies, groups, organizations, individuals) to donate an item to the auction that you feel someone would like to have and would be willing to bid on. Items can include specialty gift baskets, memorabilia from your state or university, art, places to vacation, etc.

NBASLH appreciates any donations that you can bring to the Convention. If you are unable to attend the Convention and would like to donate an item, contact Diane Yenerall at the NBASLH Office, 412-366-1177 or [nbaslh@nbaslh.org](mailto:nbaslh@nbaslh.org).

## NBASLH Awards

It was great to see all of you in Charlotte, and I am looking forward to seeing you in 2008 in D.C. when we celebrate 30 years as an organization. I would like to strongly encourage all of you to take a more active part in NBASLH. This is your organization. I have served on the awards committee for the last couple of years. This year, I was very concerned because there were not any nominations for the awards given internally except the Student Scholarship Award. I am asking you to please look among yourselves and nominate someone this year for one of our awards. Please go to the website, [www.nbaslh.org](http://www.nbaslh.org), download the forms and nominate someone for the NBASLH awards.

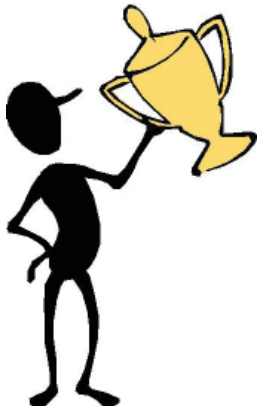
They are there to recognize persons who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you for all you do for NBASLH. I look forward to seeing you in D.C.

### *NBASLH Awards*

- NBASLH Communication Excellence Award
- William T. Simpkins, Jr. Service Award
- Scholar - Mentor Award
- Student Research Award

### *Thomasyne Hill Smith*

Thomasyne Hill Smith  
NBASLH Awards Committee



## Identifying Minority Audiologists

If you were to type in the words “minority audiologists” into a Google search window, you will be surprised, as I was, to find that the first listing is an article I wrote over 20 years ago, which appeared in the then ASHA Magazine (1988). It was entitled Minority audiologists: a critical need to establish a professional/community identity.

The second listing on the Google page is a comment from a colleague at Indiana State University (1996) who asked (then) “What exactly is a minority audiologist?” This colleague contended that since we (audiologists) were not yet recognized as an entity by the “Feds” we are all minorities. That we needed to have the same status accorded us by the medical establishment and other third-party payers given to psychologists, optometrists and others.

From his perspective, my colleague’s comments were certainly “on-point.” Concerns then (1996) about the elevation of audiology to a doctoral profession were pervasive. But he missed the then and now urgent message, that there are fewer and fewer minorities coming into the profession of audiology. Further, that this paucity of minority representatives did and continues to have a deleterious effect on the delivery of hearing health care services to minorities across this country. In 2005 there were 14,284 audiologists listed as certified members of ASHA. Of these, 751 were minorities, and 139 (.97%) were African Americans. With a little over 70 academic programs today offering doctoral education in audiology, there is on average 10 students in each program with fewer than 1% African-American. These numbers are frightening and speak loudly to the issue of under-representation.

I recently (2007) received a mini-grant from Norfolk State’s Center for Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences (CBBS) to conduct a pilot investigation into why African-Americans, who happen to be deaf or severely hard of hearing, do not avail themselves of hearing health care services and the latest hearing health care technologies (i.e., cochlear implants) as do their non-minority counterparts. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) support this contention. Surveys with questions addressing the seemingly disparate hearing health care outcomes, were distributed to small groups of deaf and hard of hearing adults, and the parents of deaf and hard of hearing children across the country. An early analysis of the results from my study suggest that as a key factor accounting for the disparity is a substantial lack of hearing health care services, with visible minority professionals, located in racial and ethnic minority communities. Other factors being suggested include costs (e.g., hearing aids (average \$1500) and cochlear implants (\$50,000)), and an insubstantial amount of attention being paid by non-minority providers, to the social and cultural diversity issues faced by racial and ethnic minorities.

That the profession of audiology is quickly establishing its recognition as an important health care profession is becoming evident. It’s identity as a minority health profession is quickly fading. But also fading is the recognition or identity of racial and ethnic minorities in the field. I think what I said in my 1988 article is true today. The few racial and ethnic minority audiologists there, need to join forces. We need to approach the major hearing health care corporations with plans that convince them that the emerging minority populations are becoming more economically viable. They will continue to divert from the use of hearing health care products and services as long as the number of representative minorities in audiology remains low and unidentified. It would be nice to finally see ourselves for who we really are.

### *Ron Jones*

Ron Jones, Past Chair, NBASLH

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September 1, 2007-August 31, 2008

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## Announcing Our New Affiliate of the Year Award (Deadline February 15, 2008)

The National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASLH) is proud to announce the creation of the Affiliate of the Year Award in honor of an affiliate that exemplifies high standards of programming for its members and the community.

The Affiliate of the Year Award will be awarded to an outstanding affiliate that represents high standards of excellence to which all affiliates should aspire.

Examples of accomplishments include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Increasing affiliate membership by 5% during a year (as compared to the previous year). Submit a membership roster for the most recent two consecutive years.
- Conducting professional development events for affiliate members (e.g., workshop, conference, study group, etc.). Attach a brief description of event and include any supporting materials.
- Developing or maintaining a program or activity to address the recruitment and retention of future speech-language pathologists, audiologists and speech-language-hearing scientists.
- Conducting a program or activity to address the unique communication needs of the local community (e.g., community outreach, community awareness).

The first annual award is to be given at the 2008 NBASLH Annual Convention in Washington, DC.

For more information, please visit the Affiliates section of this website, [www.nbaslh.org](http://www.nbaslh.org).

## Jenell Gordon Receives Communication Excellence Award



In May, Jenell Gordon, was presented with the NBASLH Communication Excellence Award. The award is given to an African-American who has excelled either in overcoming a speech or hearing disability or who has helped someone overcome such afflictions. Ms. Gordon has done both.

Gordon received a bachelor's degree at NSU and worked as an intern at a local radio station before going to the University of Tennessee for a master's in speech-language pathology. In 1993, she was diagnosed with arteriovenous malformation, a circulatory defect that develops before or shortly after birth. She communicates via sign language and an assistive communication device. Despite her limitations, she still advocates for herself and other patients, and writes essays on health care policy.

Typically, the award is given at the annual Convention, however, Ms. Gordon was unable to attend, so she was given a surprise presentation at Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital, where she lives.

In addition to receiving the award, Ms. Gordon was given a job offer as co-teacher of a course about assistive communication at Norfolk State University (NSU) by Ron Jones, NBASLH Past Chair.



## Mark Your Calendars

**2008 NBASLH Convention Call for Papers Deadline**  
November 1, 2007

**Membership Renewals Mailed**  
Early November, 2007

**Convention Program Mailed**  
Mid-January, 2008

**Nomination for NBASLH Board of Directors Deadline**  
January 15, 2008

**Nomination for NBASLH Awards Deadline**  
February 15, 2008

**NBASLH 2008 Convention**  
April 17-19, 2008

**PRAXIS Review**  
April 17-19, 2008

# *Resound))))*

### *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 Audiologist.

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  
nbashl@nbashl.org

**[www.nbashl.org](http://www.nbashl.org)**

***Check [www.nbashl.org](http://www.nbashl.org) for Event Updates and Reminders!***

# *Resound))))*

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL BLACK ASSOCIATION FOR  
SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING

800 Perry Highway, Suite 3  
Pittsburgh, PA 15229-1128

# 2007 Convention Photo Gallery

Check out the NBASLH website, [www.nbaslh.org](http://www.nbaslh.org) for additional pictures.



# 30 Years of NBASLH:

*Acknowledge the Past, Impact the Future*



*April 17-19, 2008*

*Doubletree Hotel Crystal City*

*Washington, DC Area*

**Mark Your Calendar and Make Plans to Attend!**

Please visit the NBASLH website, [www.nbaslh.org](http://www.nbaslh.org)  
for up-to-date information.

*Questions?*

*Contact the NBASLH office at 412-366-1177 or [nbaslh@nbaslh.org](mailto:nbaslh@nbaslh.org).*