



# Resound))))))

Summer 2011

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

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

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

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Deactivating a CSD Program at an HBCU

Multiple Hats of a Professional Woman

Coast to Coast: Diary of a Speech-Language Pathologist Traveler

Advocate for Your Patients: Know the Impact of Co-morbid Diseases

Membership News

2012 Convention Call for Papers

2011 Convention Photo Gallery

## Membership Drive

The new fiscal year (September 1, 2011) for the National Black Association for Speech-Language Hearing (NBASLH) has begun with us needing to make an earnest commitment to increasing our membership; because, one of the main purposes for NBASLH's existence is to "promote improvement in the quality of speech, language and hearing services to black individuals with communication disorders." Considering the fact that some of today's oral language interventions and acoustical devices generated by neuroscience have given us opportunities to be totally effective and efficient in providing quality services to a great variety of patients of all ages, we must take full advantage of these opportunities so our profession will continue to be vital to the health and well-being of a global society. Current NBASLH members are at the forefront of change and advancement in the profession, and we have moral and professional obligations to share our quest for knowledge and experiences with others in the field that have not had the NBASLH experience or need to have their NBASLH experience reawakened.

Our scopes of practice have been significantly expanded in the past five years, and NBASLH members have definitely been a part of that change. Today there is a great opportunity for us to elevate and inform the public of our contribution to the fact that oral language is a 'human right' and the quality of our lives is dependent upon the quality of the intergenerational conversation. NBASLH members are well informed and many are leaders in all aspects of the profession around the nation.

On the east coast, longtime NBASLH member Dr. Tommie Robinson Jr., CCC-SLP, was recently an ASHA president; in the Midwest, longtime NBASLH member Dr. Sandra Mayfield, CCC-SLP, Governors State University Assistant Provost and Professor was named "Fellow by American Council on Education," and also in the Midwest, Dr. Linda McCade-Smith, CCC-SLP, Southern Illinois University Associate Chancellor for Institutional Diversity recently joined the NBASLH Board of Directors; in the south, longtime NBASLH member Dr. Nola T. Radford, CCC-SLP, Jackson State University Professor is the author of the resourceful book *Smooth Talking, A Curriculum for School-Age Children Who Stutter*; and on the west coast, longtime NBASLH member Dr. Pamela Wiley-Wells, CCC-SLP, is president of one of the most successful private practices (Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center) in the United States. She also recently co-authored with Jamie Torres a resourceful book on autism, *Autism: Attacking Social Interaction Problems (AASIP) the Basics and Beyond, A Therapy Manual Targeting Social Skills in Children 10-12*.

Unfortunately, too many professionals in our field either have not been able to change with the times; they have never heard of NBASLH; they are stuck in the past nursing a festering professional sore instead of letting it heal; or been manually elevated to a lofty fragile glass position high above the touch of the masses and the psycho-social reality of their very own mortal existence. In reality this is a time when the consumer in general and especially black people in particular are not receiving enough quality speech, language and hearing services. It is a well-documented social and political fact that blacks as a whole in America are usually the most deprived of quality services of any kind. But we should not let our condition determine our identity nor our destination. NBASLH needs members to take up the cause to insure blacks receive quality speech, language and hearing services. Initially, we should target our membership drive to certain states.

A shocking report (2011 KIDS Count Data Book) recently released by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of "vulnerable children and families" identified states

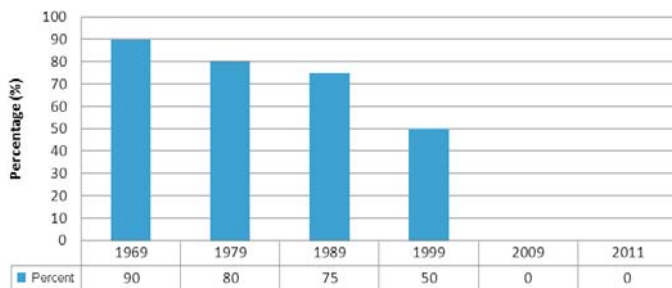
*continued on page 4*

# Deactivating a CSD Program at an HBCU

A decision to close an academic program at any institution of higher education can have serious implications; certainly for would-be students, but also the faculty, the university and the community-at-large. If that decision has to be made, it should be done in a deliberative manner, one reflective of the circumstance or circumstances that may have prompted it.

In May 2011, the faculty and university administrators at Norfolk State University (NSU), Norfolk, Virginia, deactivated its 42-year-old undergraduate training program in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD). NSU's program was one of the few remaining undergraduate programs at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). The decision to deactivate the program was based, officially, on a 10-year steady decline in undergraduate CSD enrollment. Its largest enrollment was in 1999, with 36 students, but in the fall of 2010 enrollment had fallen to only five students. Unofficially, it was determined by the faculty that none of the five remaining students at the end of fall semester 2010 had earned grades sufficient enough to make them eligible for admission to any graduate training program in CSD. Continuing their enrollment, based on their current academic performances, would, with certainty, have hurt their grade point averages (GPA), as well as their chances of getting into graduate school, even in some other discipline. As a consequence, each of the remaining students was urged to drop the major and transfer to some other discipline. Figure 1 (below) shows a representative sample of the percentage of CSD students (1999-2011) who met eligibility requirements (i.e., GPA) for graduate program admission at the time of their graduation.

Figure 1. Percentage of students meeting graduate school admission requirements at the time of their graduation.



In reflection, the CSD faculty recalled that at the height of enrollments (1999-2000) there was a noticeable change in the professional "attitude" of entering students. Fewer students presented with dedicated interests in the health sciences, and many seemed to have an "altered" view of speech pathology, thinking somehow that it related more to special education than to health or rehabilitation. The faculty recalled that students would state they did not want to "deal with" large class sizes, like teachers, and that speech pathology had "small classes" and was more appealing. Also, few students seemed academically prepared for the rigor of the health and science based speech pathology and audiology courses, which they were required to take. The sentiment of just wanting to "get out of school with a good paying job," seemed quite prevalent.

Reports from students leaving the program (circa 2005) suggested:

- That there were too few "hands-on," practical experiences or simulations in speech pathology to make the classes more "enjoyable."
- There was much more academic work (i.e., reading, writing discussions, library studies, etc.) than what was expected.
- The required professional behavior and decorum (i.e., dress code, proper speech) were more than what was expected.
- Having to definitely go to graduate school after getting a bachelor's degree was a problem (many had to go to work to pay back loans, parents, etc.).

## A Glimmer of Hope

Out of the deactivation of the CSD program comes one glimmer of hope. In the midst of closing the program the faculty was permitted to transfer the core CSD courses (i.e., phonetics, A & P, speech science, neurogenetics, audiology and aural rehab) to the University's School of Extended Learning where they were made available for online instruction. The CSD curriculum is now targeting "career-changers," older students interested in graduate CSD training, but who need undergraduate prerequisite coursework. This program appears to have a growing potential and promises to keep communication sciences and disorders alive at NSU, albeit, in a virtual environment.

There is no doubt that the Communication Sciences and Disorders program at NSU can be proud of its history. Over the past four decades, scores of the program's graduates, and several of its faculty, went on to achieve local, regional, national and international recognitions and honors. Yet, the fact that the program lost enrollment had to be deactivated should give us pause to consider what might be going on with other programs experiencing similar circumstances. Even one such deactivation should caution us that it could happen elsewhere.



*Dr. Ronald Jones is still a Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the Department of English and Foreign Languages at Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA. For more information about the CSD program's deactivation and/or information about NSU's online prerequisite CSD program, contact Dr. Jones by e-mail at [rjones@nsu.edu](mailto:rjones@nsu.edu), or by phone at 757 823-2365.*

## 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](mailto:nbaslh@nbaslh.org)

**NBASLH Executive Board**  
*September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012*

**Arnell Brady, Chair**  
aaarnell@aol.com

**Linda McCabe Smith, Treasurer**  
lsmith@siu.edu

**Carolyn Mayo, Secretary**  
jthgug@gmail.com  
cmmayo@ncat.edu

**Rachel Williams, Convention Chair**  
rachwill@nova.edu

**Michele Norman, PRAXIS Chair**  
drmlnorman@gmail.com  
normanml@longwood.edu

**Byron Ross, Parliamentarian/Awards**  
bloss@central.uh.edu

**Katrina Miller, Affiliates**  
millerk@nccu.edu  
talk4mekm@aol.com

**Jamila Foreman, Resound))) Editor**  
jamila.foreman@gmail.com

**Ronald Jones, ECHO Editor**  
rjones@nsu.edu

**Silvia Martinez**  
smartinez@howard.edu

**Kia Johnson**  
johns3kn@jmu.edu

**Frederick Turner**  
**Student Representative**  
freddiet38@hotmail.com

**Diane Yenerall**  
**NBASLH Business Manager**  
700 McKnight Park Drive, Suite 708  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-366-1177  
412-366-8804 (Fax)  
nbaslh@nbaslh.org

## Multiple Hats of a Professional Woman

As with many health care professionals, multiple hats may be worn throughout life based on multiple responsibilities of life. Multiple responsibilities may be described as and/or viewed as time-consuming, demanding, conflicting and at times awe-inspiring, although managing one's skills among multiple roles, may appear to others as effortless.

Transitioning from one hat to another is an art, and may be viewed as dynamic. Despite what combined tasks and/or sentiments come to mind, wearing and systematizing multiple hats has become a daily routine of many certified/licensed speech-language pathologists (SLPs) across the nation. Like many health care professionals, SLPs share two things, a personal life and a professional life.

Along with other factors, one's personal life may supersede one's professional life or vice versa, depending upon where one is in life and where one aspires to be, personally and/or professionally.

As for me, at this point in my life, with God's guidance, managing my personal life, expanding my career and broadening my education at the doctoral level at Nova Southeastern University are my multiple hats of life.

What multiple hats of life are you wearing?!



*Opal D. Williams, MEd, CCC-SLP, Founder & CEO of Communication 360 LLC*  
Website: [www.communication360llc.com](http://www.communication360llc.com)

*Undergraduate studies: Speech Language Pathology at NC A&T*  
*Graduate studies: Communication Sciences & Disorders at NCCU*  
*Post graduate studies: Doctor of Education Candidate with dual Concentrations in Speech-Language Pathology and Health Care Education at Nova Southeastern University*

## Coast to Coast: Diary of a Speech-Language Pathologist Traveler

As a speech-language pathologist (SLP) traveler, I have had the opportunity to explore the country and advance my career. For more than a year these contractual positions have exposed me to diverse populations, disorders and SLPs who share the same passion for our growing profession.

I realized quickly that being an SLP traveler placed me in the driver's seat of my career. On this journey I obtained a lot of experience in a short period of time and learned to adapt to facility specific protocols while maintaining ASHA's Code of Ethics. Working with SLPs trained at various institutions elevated my clinical expertise of diagnosing and treating adults with neurologically based disorders. Although all of my assignments hold a special place in my heart, my most memorable assignment was Valley Baptist Medical Center in Brownsville, Texas. This placement submerged me in a multicultural environment. The majority of my patients were Spanish-speaking and of Mexican descent. As a minority in this environment, I embraced learning a new culture and language to meet the functional needs of my patients and their families. I shared information from other successful SLP programs and together my colleagues and I learned from each other while advancing the level of care provided to each patient.

As I box up my traveling shoes that have taken me to the snow capped mountains of Western Maryland; to the beautiful city of Chicago, Illinois; to watch the sunset off the Chesapeake Bay; to run along the roaring ocean in South Padre Island, Texas; to experiencing the city of the Dallas Mavericks; and to painting the town purple in the city of the Baltimore Ravens, a new zip code every three months has been adventurous. This steady fresh start created nationwide networking avenues for me in the field of speech-language pathology.

My favorite quote by Lawrence K. Fish – *"Find life experiences and swallow them whole. Travel. Meet many people. Go down some dead ends and explore dark alleys. Try everything. Exhaust yourself in the glorious pursuit of life."*



*Davetrina Seles Gadson specializes in adult neurological disorders. She graduated from South Carolina State University with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Towson University with a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology.*



## Advocate for Your Patients: Know the Impact of Co-morbid Diseases

SLPs must understand the importance of knowing the impact of co-morbid diseases when treating our patients. Diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and high cholesterol have all been shown to increase the risk of stroke and have also been linked to Alzheimer's Disease.

As an SLP in an adult setting, it is often necessary to educate patients and caregivers on risk factors to prevent additional strokes and to provide additional information that can contribute to the overall wellness of the patient. When dealing with multicultural populations, SLPs should be aware of health disparities and use this knowledge to advocate for the patient and educate the patient and caregivers. While we may have been consulted to deal with communication, cognitive or swallowing deficits that have resulted after a stroke, our job is to also contribute to the prevention of another stroke. This can be a sensitive subject, because many of these related diseases are caused by lifestyle and diet. Partnering with a dietician may be beneficial in educating patients and families on alternatives to culturally specific foods. Also, knowledge of resources and support groups in the patient's community is vital to providing additional education and support for the related diseases and stroke prevention.

Thoroughly assessing memory and problem-solving, especially as it relates to medication management and insight/judgment is critical to the patient's overall well-being. It may necessitate identifying a reliable caregiver to administer or supervise medications and additional disease management activities, such as monitoring blood-glucose levels.

Having general knowledge of the normal ranges or patient specific parameters for blood pressure, heart rate, temperature and blood-glucose levels will aid the SLP in identifying if there are any changes in the patient's health which may increase the risk for stroke. Usually, the SLP is a member of an inter-disciplinary team which includes a doctor and a nurse, however, the therapist may need to communicate changes in the patient's condition to alert the doctor and prevent additional complications. Do not assume that the patient or the caregiver is fully educated on the management of the patient's diseases or changes in conditions that should be reported. If additional information is needed, that is beyond the scope of practice, the SLP should consult with the case manager, who is usually an RN, and ask that they provide additional education on disease and/or medication management.

The SLP who truly partners with the patient, the caregivers and the other members of the inter-disciplinary team is a necessary contribution to over-all wellness of the patient. Having knowledge of co-morbid diseases will increase the SLP's role in these partnerships and make the SLP a stronger advocate for the patient. For more information on risk factors of stroke for African-Americans, visit [www.stroke.org](http://www.stroke.org). For more information on risk factors for stroke for Hispanics visit [www.strokeassociation.org](http://www.strokeassociation.org).



*Jamila Perry Foreman, MEd, CCC-SLP is a SLP in a home care setting, Owner/President of Find Your Voice: Communication Specialists, PLLC and the editor of the Resound))). For additional information visit her websites [www.fyvcommunicationspecialists.com](http://www.fyvcommunicationspecialists.com) or [www.facebook.com/findyourvoicecommunicationspecialists](http://www.facebook.com/findyourvoicecommunicationspecialists).*

## Membership Drive

*continued from page 1*

where it is good and safe to raise children and states where it is bad and unsafe to raise children. For our membership drive we will initially focus on the 21 worst states in terms of child safety and well-being, because that's where our help is sorely needed. In other words, we started from the bottom (the most deprived, the least likely to receive quality services, the least likely to survive) or the worst State (Mississippi) with a rank of 50 and worked up to number 30 (Michigan) on the list, to get our 21 worst states in terms of child well-being.

The 21 worst states in terms of overall child well-being is listed on the next page, a comparison can be made between the percentage of black people in the state, the number of NBASLH members, and the number of black members in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The membership count includes speech-language pathologists and audiologists. The comparison was made to give us an idea of the percentage of speech-language pathologists and audiologists that have openly made a commitment and joined in a concerted effort to improve the quality of speech, language and hearing services to black individuals in their state and the potential for growth.

Humans are social animals. We have a strong need to belong. Much of our self-identity is shaped by the social groups where we are members. Some of those groups we are born into, much like our ethnic identity and sexuality. Then there are those groups that we choose to be a part of because of our self-interest. Added to this list should be groups and associations that we need to belong to in order to survive and thrive. NBASLH is one of those associations that are involved with surviving and thriving. We need more professionals that are ready to survive and thrive. Join NBASLH now!



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

### Membership News

Starting Fall 2011, Byron Ross will begin as Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Houston in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Byron served on the faculty at the University of Central Arkansas for 11 years and is very excited about his new position.

## Breakdown of NBASLH and ASHA Members in Relation to Their State

State	Rank	Black persons, percent of total state population	NBASLH Members (SLP & A)	ASHA Black Members (SLP & A)
Mississippi	50	37%	6	117
Louisiana	49	32%	8	166
Alabama	48	26.20%	1	80
Arkansas	47	15.40%	12	61
New Mexico	46	2.10%	1	5
South Carolina	45	27.90%	8	213
West Virginia	44	3.40%	0	72
Oklahoma	43	7.40%	0	13
Georgia	42	30.50%	12	428
Kentucky	41	7.80%	0	26
Nevada	40	8.10%	0	14
Tennessee	39	16.70%	13	122
North Carolina	38	21.50%	30	350
Arizona	37	4.10%	2	24
Florida	36	16%	13	274
Texas	35	11.80%	18	404
Missouri	34	11.60%	3	67
Montana	33	0.40%	0	0
Alaska	32	3.30%	0	1
Indiana	31	9.10%	2	37
Michigan	30	14.20%	10	105

### 2012 Convention Call For Papers

2012 Convention | Raleigh Marriott City Center | Raleigh, NC |  
April 19-22, 2012



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, 2011.**

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

**Raleigh Marriott City Center  
Standard Room Rate: \$135**



### Mark Your Calendars

**2012 NBASLH Convention Call for Papers Deadline**  
November 1, 2011

**Membership Renewals Mailed**  
Early November, 2011

**Nomination for NBASLH Board of Directors Deadline**  
January 31, 2012

**Convention Program Mailed**  
February, 2012

**Nomination for NBASLH Awards Deadline**  
February 1, 2012

**NBASLH Scholarship Deadline**  
February 15, 2012

**NBASLH 2012 Convention**  
April 19-22, 2012

**PRAXIS Review**  
April 19-22, 2012

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

# 2011 Convention Photo Gallery



Antoine Bethea and Rachel Williams at Awards Dinner



Araire McWhinney, Rachel Williams, Melissa Edrich and Mary Ann Lowe Raquel Garcia at Awards Dinner



Cathy Runnels and Byron Ross at Gospel Breakfast



Fred Turner at Student-Mentor Luncheon



Arnell Brady with students at Student-Mentor Luncheon



Jaquetta Perry Praise Dance at Gospel Breakfast



Group Dancing at Awards Dinner



Guest Panel at Student-Mentor Luncheon



ASHA Members with students at Student-Mentor Luncheon



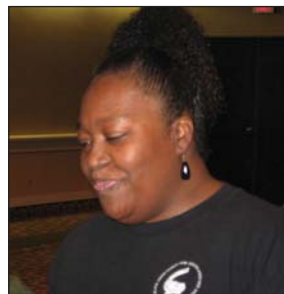
Iris Arnold Johnson and Rachel Williams Group Wobble Dance at Awards Dinner



Lekeita Emanuel and Terlenda Crawford at Gospel Breakfast



Carney Soto with Students at Student-Mentor Luncheon



Michele Norman at Gospel Breakfast



Iris Arnold Johnson with students at Student-Mentor Luncheon



Michele Norman and Iris Arnold Johnson at Awards Dinner



Carolyn Mayo and Jonathon Love with students at Student-Mentor Luncheon



Michele Norman and Byron Ross with students at Student-Mentor Luncheon



Ron Jones and Paula Leslie with students at Student-Mentor Luncheon

# 2011 Convention Photo Gallery



NBASLH Members at Gospel Breakfast



Group at Gospel Breakfast



Ron Jones at Gospel Breakfast



Rachel Williams and Iris Arnold Johnson at Awards Dinner



Rachel Williams and Arnell Brady at Gospel Breakfast



Ensley Graves and Regina Lemmon at Gospel Breakfast



Rachel Williams, Michele Norman and Jackie Moore at Gospel Breakfast



Soloris Greene and Maggie Tshule at Gospel Breakfast



Students at Gospel Breakfast



Students at Gospel Breakfast



Sylvia Martinez, Kara Taylor and Byron Ross at Student-Mentor Luncheon



Wanda Miller and her mother at the Gospel Breakfast