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

National Black
Association for
Speech-
Language and
Hearing

Website: nbaslh.org



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NBASLH Contracts with an Association Management Firm

This past fall, the NBASLH Executive Board contracted with Craven Management Associates, LLC, to provide management services, membership services, convention services, technology services and publications and to maintain an NBASLH Office. Creating the NBASLH Office provides members with a central location for sending dues and registration and a central source for questions by either phone or email.

In addition to creating a central office for member communication, transferring administrative responsibilities to the NBASLH Office will allow the Executive Board to focus primarily on the strategic objectives and goals of the association.

NBASLH's primary contact with Craven Management Associates is Diane Yenerall, CAE, NBASLH's Business Manager. Diane is responsible for the overall management of the association. She will be assisting the Executive Board with financial management, strategic planning and planning for the annual convention.

Theresa Zamagias, from Craven Management Associates, is working on marketing of NBASLH to both potential members and vendors. Amy Caye is responsible for membership management and publications. And, Sandy Bollenbacher is a Convention Specialist who assists with Convention and on-site administration.

The new contact information for the NBASLH Office is as follows:

NBASLH Office
800 Perry Highway
Suite 3
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-366-1177
412-366-8804 (FAX)
NBASLH@nbaslh.org.
www.nbaslh.org

The NBASLH Executive Board and associates of Craven Management Associates look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship.

2006 Convention Review

The 2006 28th Annual NBASLH Convention was held April 20-22 at the Hilton Memphis in Memphis, Tenn., and was once again, a great success! The theme of this year's event was "Recognizing Excellence in Practice, Teaching, Research and Service."

We are excited to announce that we had more than 150 attendees and guests and 11 exhibitors at this year's convention!

In addition, we had 34 attendees at the Intensive Review for the PRAXIS Examination, which coincided with the convention.

Congratulations to Dr. Wilhelmina Wright-Harp, who was presented with the 2006 Scholar-Mentor Award. The award is given to an outstanding professional who has been involved in the mentoring of African-American students in speech-language pathology, audiology and/or speech-hearing sciences.

Congratulations also to Dr. Tommie Robinson, Jr., who was presented with the 2006 William T. Simpkins, Jr. Service Award. This award was designed as a mechanism for recognizing an individual in the organization who has distinguished himself/herself through service to NBASLH. The recipient of this award exemplifies the mission and goals of the organization through notable contributions.

Gloria Weddington, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Communicative Disorders and Sciences at San Jose State University in California was the keynote speaker at the Opening Session titled "Your Parents Were Right, You Have to be Better." Arnell Brady, MA, CCC-SLP/L, an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist in private practice based in Chicago, Ill., was the featured speaker at the NBASLH Annual Awards Dinner titled "An Oral Language Approach to Black Male Surviving and Thriving."

Additional highlighted speakers included Noma Anderson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Alex Johnson, Ph.D., Tommie Robinson, Jr., Ph.D., and Mary Joe Schill, MA, CCC-SLP.

More than 60 students and their mentors attended the Student-Mentor Luncheon, which provided the opportunity for students and mentors to enjoy a program specifically designed for students.

Mark your calendars for April 19-21, 2007, for another successful convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. We look forward to seeing you all in 2007.



Community Outreach

When does an activity become a tradition? Can it be considered a tradition if it has only happened once before? Or is it only after several times that one can consider it something that must be done “one more time again?”

At NBASLH’s convention last year, 31 convention attendees (e.g., a group of sleepy professionals and students) gathered early on Saturday morning and trekked over to one of Richmond’s (VA) inner-city faith-based community centers to conduct our first annual speech and hearing screening. The fact that speech-language pathologists and audiologists conducted a community speech and hearing screening was not what made the activity unique. That it was done at our national convention, did.

In my opinion, NBASLH, like other African-American professional organizations, has a dual responsibility. The first responsibility is to its membership; to provide opportunities for members to meet, to share information, to promote scholarship and research, to facilitate professional development, and to create, for itself, a legacy. The second responsibility is to the many communities that supply the members and nourish their talents; that generate a need for service, and that seek the support and assistance the organization can provide. For an organization like NBASLH to address only the first of these responsibilities, would be negligent, and at worse, callous.

Yes, I think we have the makings of a tradition. As long as NBASLH continues to look to the community for its inspiration, it will recognize its responsibility to reach out and give back.

Ronald Jones, Editor

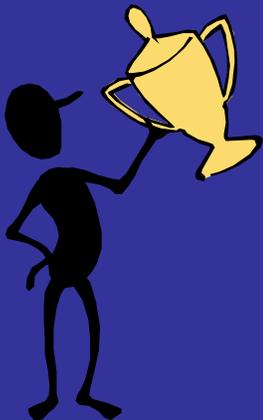
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Council of Graduate Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders Honors University of North Carolina at Greensboro- North Carolina A&T State University Student Chapter of NBASLH with Diversity Incentive Award

As you know, the Council recognizes individuals and organizations each year for their contributions to the Council and to professional training in communication sciences and disorders. I am very pleased to inform you that the Council has selected the University of North Carolina at Greensboro-North Carolina A&T State University Student Chapter of the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing as the 2006 recipient of the Council’s Diversity Incentive Award. This award is presented annually to the individual, individuals, or academic program making significant contributions to achieving diversity in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Recipients of this award are individuals or academic programs that have made a significant contribution to increasing the presence of under-represented populations in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The Nominations Committee and the Executive Board were impressed with the significant work done by this collaboration, and view it as a model for other programs.

James Mahshie, Ph.D.

Past President, CAPCSD



Explaining Autism to Children Just Got Easier



Many parents can tell you that it is very difficult to answer the complex and often emotionally filled questions children pose about why their sister or brother – or friend – behaves a certain way. Marvie Ellis, a pediatric speech-language pathologist in Texas, saw a need to help families with this area of family connectedness and communication. In an unprecedented attempt as a first time self-published author, Marvie wrote two children's illustrated bilingual autism books: *Tacos Anyone? An Autism Story Book Two/ ¿Alquien Quiere Tacos? Una Historia de Autismo Libro Dos* and *Keisha's Doors: An Autism Story Book One/ Las Puertas de Keisha: Una Historia de Autismo Libro Uno*.

The books were released in July 2005 by her publishing company, Speech Kids Texas Press, Inc. By the third week of their release, both books received nominations for the 2006 Dolly Gray Children's Developmental Disabilities Literature Award. This April, Marvie Ellis is to receive the 2005 Barbara Jordan Media Award (special contribution by an individual) for her title, *Tacos Anyone?/ ¿Alquien Quiere Tacos?*. The highly prestigious Barbara Jordan Media Awards are presented annually to outstanding communicators for accurate and progressive portrayals of people with disabilities. The awards are named for the late Barbara Jordan, one of Texas' most prominent spokeswomen for the rights of all people. The ceremony will be held April 27 in Dallas. April also celebrates the 35th Anniversary of National Autism Awareness Month.

Congratulations to Ms. Marvie Ellis, a member of NBASLH.

Ms. Ellis' Books are available on Amazon.com and on the publisher's website: <http://www.speechkidstexaspress.com> Toll Free: 1-877-44-SPEECH (774432).

History of NBASLH (a recurring feature)

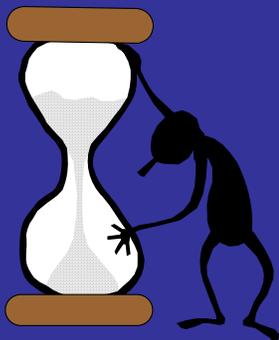
In December, 1977, an Ad Hoc Committee on association development was established. The committee was composed of a number of Black Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists from different parts of the country. The Committee's first formal meeting was held at Howard University in Washington D.C. on January 26, 1978. Their mission was to discuss:

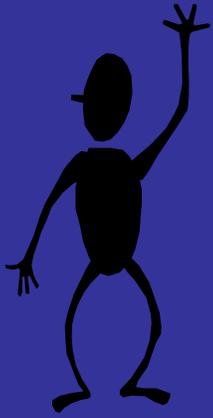
- 1) the concept of a Black speech-language and hearing association
- 2) to develop recommendations for implementing that concept
- 3) recommendations for appointing the Board of Directors and Executive Staff

The Association was incorporated in Washington D.C., June 30, 1978. The committee wanted to establish a viable mechanism through which the professional needs of the Black professionals, students and the communicatively handicapped community could be met.

The first official meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Staff of the National Black Speech-Language and Hearing (*NBASLH*) was held April 14-15, 1978 at the University of the District of Columbia.

It is important to note that the concept of a National organization for Black speech-language pathologists and audiologists was a new one. For several years prior to the incorporation of *NBASLH*, a number of people had spoken favorably of the need to establish such an organization. Indeed, it was attuned to the movement of other Black





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1978***

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professionals such as physicians, dentists, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, accountants and educators who had established organizations that focused primarily upon interests and concerns of Black professionals and students-in-training.

*Please note the term Black originally used in 1979 continues to be used by this organization to refer primarily to the populations in American having African ancestry.

Purposes of NBASLH

1. PROMOTE an increase in the number of certified Black speech-language and hearing professionals.
2. PROMOTE improvement in the quality of speech, language and hearing services of the Black communicatively handicapped.
3. PROMOTE the research and development of a body of knowledge of the identification, diagnosis and treatment of the Black communicatively handicapped.
4. SOLICIT and provide financial support for the training of Black students in the fields of speech-language and hearing.
5. BE AN ADVOCATE for the Black communicatively handicapped at the local, state and national levels.
6. DISSEMINATE INFORMATION among the professions and to the public on communication differences and disorders among Blacks.