Celebrating Diversity in Research and Clinical Practice is not just a theme but also the mission of the 2016 NBASLH Convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia. We are excited to bring an inspiring and educational Convention experience that would appeal to Convention attendees of all ages. Our highlighted speakers are the cornerstone of our Convention program and cover a variety of topics ranging from educational audiology to global outreach for speech and language services. We hope that researchers and clinicians will appreciate the breadth of topics.

We are excited to see what Virginia Beach has to offer but we also want to show the community that NBASLH Cares! Our NBASLH Cares campaign is in the process of finalizing details. Our commitment is to serve our local, national and global community through acts of service. This year, we have identified literacy as a need in the Virginia Beach area.

What is new at NBASLH Convention 2016? We have several new scholarship opportunities for students this year so please stay tune for more information. We have a featured session on grant funding with representatives from a variety of funding agencies (e.g., NIH, ASHA Foundation and Dept. of Education). This year we will have a closing reception and highlighted poster sessions. We are still planning many educational and exciting activities for you!

Please check out the NBASLH Facebook page and NBASLH website over the next couple of months. We hope to see you in beautiful Virginia Beach, Virginia, April 14-16, 2016!

Convention Co-Chairs
Hadiya Coppedge, MA
Jessica Renee Sullivan, PhD

Mark Your Calendars

2016 NBASLH Convention and 2016 Praxis Review
April 14-16, 2016
The Westin Virginia Beach Town Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Submit Your Call for Papers at www.nbaslh.org.
Deadline for submission is November 20, 2015.
Look Who’s Mentoring Who

Ten of NBASLH’s more “seasoned” members have recently become mentors to a small group of African-American students who are at some stage of completing their Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) training. So what is special about this? Well, each student who became a mentee is currently enrolled in a CSD program at a predominately white institution (PWI). The shocking thing is that none of these students had ever heard of NBASLH before seeing the NBASLH display booth at last year’s ASHA Convention. The students’ names and email addresses were quickly captured and they were promised they would be contacted. They were.

Although the (PWI) Student-Mentoring Program has several “parents,” I’ve been chosen to “nurture” it. As a seasoned NBASLH member, I have been witness to a notable decline in the number of African-American speech-language pathologists and audiologists entering the professions. According to a recent report from ASHA (2013), the number of certified African-American speech-language pathologists and audiologists is now at 4,049 (e.g., 3,816 CCC-SLPs and 233 CCC-As). This is approximately 2.4 percent of ASHA’s current membership. I, along with several others, predict that with the increasing number of undergraduate CSD training programs closing at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), the pool from which to recruit future African-American communications disorders specialists, as well as NBASLH members, will have to include those who complete their CSD training at non-minority universities. But the fact that many of these students are unaware of NBASLH’s existence is quite troubling. How is it possible that an association that has been in existence since the 1970s; that has had an Annual Convention since its founding; that has a professional scholarly journal, a newsletter and a prominent presence on the Internet is not known to African-American students enrolled in CSD programs at predominately white institutions?

Unquestionably, NBASLH’s future depends heavily upon those of us who are interested in addressing the communication-rehabilitative needs of a Black population, as well as those who want to belong to an organization that appeals to the professional/social interests of Black communication disorders specialists and students. African-American students enrolled in CSD programs at non-minority universities, and who are isolated from the communication needs of African-American communities will have to be made more keenly aware of the cultural needs and the professional interests of those who service those communities. Direct contact by NBASLH members who are in a position to be mentors, appears to be the answer.

The 10 NBASLH members who volunteered to be mentors agreed to make a gift of the History of NBASLH: The First 20 Years (NBASLH’s history book by M. Eugene Wiggins (2014)). They also agreed to correspond regularly, and to invite their respective mentees to attend a NBASLH Convention. So far, all 10 of the mentees have received their history books and seven of the 10 mentees have made plans to attend the 2016 NBASLH Convention in Virginia Beach next spring.

The (PWI) Student-Mentoring Program needs more volunteers. It has been estimated that there are at least 250 African-American students currently enrolled in graduate CSD programs at predominately white institutions across the U.S. If any of these students are as unaware of NBASLH’s existence as were the former students, now mentees, then there is much work to be done. Contact me at rjones@nsu.edu for more information about the (PWI) Student Mentoring Program.

References

Submitted by Ronald Jones, PhD
Accelerated Five-Year Program for the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

Howard University’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has been approved to offer both the traditional, accredited program, which takes a minimum of six years to complete, and the accelerated five-year program, beginning in the fall 2016, which takes students from their freshman year (pre-professional level) to the completion of their master’s degrees (professional level) in less time. The accelerated program is designed for students who: recognize their interest in pursuing advanced training in speech-language pathology at the beginning of their undergraduate experience; come to the pre-professional experience with a high school average of 3.5 or better; maintain a graduate point average at Howard University of 3.5 or better; and are motivated to complete five years of education to obtain the Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology.

Member News

Two members of NBASLH recently completed their doctoral degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) and have accepted tenure track faculty positions beginning this fall.

• Jamila Minga, PhD, Assistant Professor, North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina

• Carrie Knight, PhD, Assistant Professor, Salus University, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

We congratulate these members (and UNCG alums) and wish them success as they begin their careers in the academy!

Michael A. Draughon attended a reception at the White House on July 20, 2015, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The event was hosted by President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. The photo below is of Mr. Draughon standing with Senator Tom Harkin (retired) of Iowa. Senator Harkin was the author of the ADA bill and delivered a speech on the senate floor on July 13, 1990, using American Sign Language (ASL). It was the first time in history that a speech was delivered on the senate floor using ASL.

Congratulations to Dr. Valarie Beavers Fleming who has been appointed Chair of the Department of Communication Disorders (CDIS) at the University of Texas Austin.

Salus University Announces New Master of Science Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

Congratulations to Salus University and Dr. Carolyn Mayo, Department of Speech-Language Pathology Chair/Program Director, on the recent CAA accreditation of their new speech-language pathology program. Salus University will offer a Master of Science Degree in speech-language pathology for the first time during the 2015-2016 academic year. Its inaugural class of 25 students will begin this fall. The program was awarded Candidacy accreditation status by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of ASHA in July 2015.

Project IMPACT

The Department of Speech Pathology – Tennessee State University

During the 2014-2015 school year, speech pathology (ST), occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT) collaborated to develop a timely and unique initiative entitled Project IMPACT (Increasing Minority Participation in Allied Health Care Tracks). The purpose(s) of Project IMPACT included: introducing African-American junior high and high school students to careers in OT, ST and PT; mentoring high school students interested in health care fields; preparing current TSU health science majors for getting into graduate school; and offering four summer day camps for 60 high school students and eight Nashville health science teachers.

Funding from a Tennessee Board of Regents (2014-2015) Student Engagement Research (SERS) grant enabled Project IMPACT’s faculty from OT, ST and PT to recruit seven TSU student Ambassadors to assist in visiting one middle and five high schools. The Ambassadors prepared interactive, hands on presentation and are in the process of presenting them to students at schools with healthcare academies. They were also available for mentoring and tutoring the current undergraduate health science majors if requests were made.

At the present moment, Project IMPACT has been very well received by the public school healthcare instructors, TSU admissions office and TSU administrators. Requests to continue the initiative have been consistent. The current reach of Project IMPACT is very broad touching more than 200 students from TSU, Bailey Middle School, Cane Ridge High School, Hillwood High School, Hillsboro High School, Martin Luther King High School and Overton High School. The 2014-2015 academic school year enabled Project IMPACT to lay the foundation and establish public school and university partnerships. The next phase of the project must incorporate measuring the effectiveness and impact of the project.

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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

News from NBASLH’s Newest Affiliate, Old Dominion University

The Old Dominion University Affiliate recently invited four Black speech-language pathologists from our community to come and share their experiences within the field. They also hosted a phonetics review for undergraduate students which was very successful.

They are looking forward to having the NBASLH 2016 Convention in their own backyard at Virginia Beach.