

Message from the President

by Andy McMillin

Springtime is a great opportunity to check in on how OSHA's "year" is progressing. I'd like to provide updates on several projects that are in the works.

First, planning for the October conference is in full swing. The conference will be in Portland this year, at the Red Lion Hotel – Jantzen Beach. I am anticipating a conference that is bigger and better than ever before, and you can help make that a reality. Please reserve the dates of October 9-10 in your calendar now, and if you like, consider coming up on Thursday, October 8, when we hope to have a special PubNight get-together at the Red Lion in advance of the conference.



Second, our regular monthly PubNight events have been growing. We have seen new events begin in Bend and in Medford, and these have complemented our ongoing events in Portland and Salem. Beginning in May, we expect to have an inaugural PubNight in Hood River as well. Remember, PubNights occur on the third Thursday of each month, and information about locations is available on the [OSHA website](#) and on the [OSHA Facebook page](#). Please consider coming out to one of the events, or starting one in your town if the others are too far away! President-Elect Karen Aguilera and I have also been meeting with representatives from the Oregon PT Association (OPTA) and the OT Association of Oregon (OTAO) to plan for some coordinated events later this year. Stay tuned for more information on these broader events.

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Third, the Oregon Legislative session is moving very quickly. OSHA's priorities have focused on ensuring that the "Universal Licensure" bill, [SB 287](#), moves along adequately through committees and on to the appropriate floor votes. All has progressed smoothly so far, and we anticipate that [SB 287](#) will become law by the end of this session. In addition, OSHA has been very active in providing input about the processes for registration of Licensed Healthcare Providers to provide ABA services in Oregon. Our goal is to ensure that adequately trained Speech-Language Pathologists, along with other similarly trained licensed healthcare providers, will continue to be able to conduct their practices and obtain reimbursement under Oregon's current legislative mandates for ABA coverage. Senator Alan Bates has had a longstanding interest in issues related to access to healthcare, and he has been a valuable ally on this issue.

Finally, I have continued working on my project for the year: creation of the Oregon Communicator Podcast. The first episode is edited and ready for distribution. Once the second episode is available, I will submit the podcast to iTunes, where it should become available as a free download within the next month or two. Look for notices on the OSHA Facebook page (and while you're there, feel free to "like" the page). I hope to release additional episodes monthly, with the initial focus being on conversations I recorded last summer with professionals in Communications Sciences and Disorders in rural and southern Oregon. If you enjoy listening to this podcast half as much as I have enjoyed putting it together, then we will all have had a very good time.

Virginia “Ginny” Bingham, 1930—2015

Excerpted from the Register-Guard (Eugene, Oregon)

Virginia "Ginny" Bingham, age 84, passed away March 1, 2015, at the Good Samaritan Center in Eugene, Oregon. She was born August 24, 1930, in Portland, Oregon, to David and Alice Wright, and was raised there until moving to Eugene to attend the University of Oregon, where she earned her BA degree in sociology and met and married Edwin Bingham, with whom she had two daughters.

In 1964 she returned to the university to complete a Master's Degree in speech pathology and shortly thereafter joined the staff of the Eugene Hearing and Speech Center. Her specialty was the treatment of aphasia, a language disorder in those recovering from a stroke. Over the years, she became a mentor to a number of therapists who joined the staff, and her openness and willingness to share her experience and knowledge was the source of deep friendships formed throughout her career.



In 1979 she spent the year in Mysore, India, an experience that greatly enriched her life and afforded her the opportunity to volunteer at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing. India was one of several travel adventures she enjoyed during her lifetime, including the Yucatan, China, Germany, New Zealand, and an Alaskan cruise in celebration of her 80th birthday.

Virginia is survived by her sister Lois DeBogart, of Gresham, Oregon; and her two daughters, Sheila Coppola Bidlack (Rick), of Seattle, Washington; and Sara Bingham Attard (Ron), of Boise, Idaho. A memorial service was conducted on Wednesday, March 4. At the request of Virginia's family, donations may be made in her name to the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#). For additional information, visit the [Register-Guard](#) website.

Legislation Report, April 2015

Submitted by: Kathy de Domingo

Thanks to a very strong group effort, OSHA has been able to impact the following bills:

Universal Licensure (SB 287): Wendy Gunter, Susan Beottcher, and Erin Haag testified before the Senate Education Committee on April 29, 2015, providing the background of the extensive work and collaboration to bring this bill forward. The bill goes to a work session on May 8, 2015, with no amendments expected. This appears to bode well for SLPs practicing in the schools to no longer be required to hold a license as a teacher.

Licensure of Music Therapists (HB 2796): Initial testimony was heard by the License Law and Regulatory Committee of the House on February 4, 2015. A work session was held on April 6, 2015, where the bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. If passed, Music Therapists would be licensed under the Health Licensing Office. There would be no board formed to support or regulate this license. Music Therapists would not be able to diagnose communication disorders, but would be able to assess and formulate a treatment plan incorporating music therapy techniques. The bill does not prohibit other professions from using music therapy modalities in their own practice. ASHA is also addressing this as a potential national trend, since at least two other states currently allow for licensing and the American Music Therapy Association has made it clear that it intends to gain status as a provider type eligible for insurance reimbursement. Licensing in the state of Oregon will not necessarily offer a path to insurance reimbursement at this time, but will need to be actively monitored once this is implemented.

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Nominate a Colleague for an OSHA Award!

Any member or non-member of the association may submit a nomination for OSHA awards. All nominees for OSHA awards must be members of OSHA with the exception of agencies or organizations recognized with Honors of the Association or Distinguished Service.

Nominations should not be made known to the nominee prior to their selection. With exception to the student scholarship and President's award, to be elected, the nominee must have participated in the profession for no less than five years and have made an outstanding contribution as defined by the award for which they are nominated. No member may participate as sponsor and/or co-sponsor for more than one nominee in any calendar year.

All submissions will be reviewed and determined by an affirmative vote of four members of the Nomination and Honors Committee comprised of regional representatives, past honorees, and past presidents of the association.

Please submit nomination on a typed, single spaced document not to exceed one cover sheet, two pages plus three letters of co-sponsorship of the nomination by members of the association.

Submit the completed nomination packet to the Chair of the Nominations and Honors Committee: Laretta Manning, 7720 SW Macadam Avenue, #23, Portland, OR 97219 or via email: lairettamanning@comcast.net, or submit online.... Deadline for submissions is Monday, August 24, 2015. If you have questions, please contact Laretta Manning at lairettamanning@comcast.net, [971-645-2125](tel:971-645-2125)

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OSHA Award Categories include: Honors of the Association; Outstanding Clinician Award: Schools/EI/ECSE; Outstanding Clinician Award: Clinics, Hospitals, Private Practice; Award of Clinicianship; and OSHA Professional Advocacy Award. To find out more about each of these awards, please visit the [OSHA website](#).

ASHA National Elections Open

by Andy McMillin

ASHA's National elections are open for voting until May 28. Please take advantage of your membership right to vote, and ensure that Oregon's voice is heard.

Click <http://www.asha.org/about/governance/election/> and then click the link to "Vote Now" in order to cast your ballot. You don't even need your ASHA log-in information to do this – all you need is your 8-digit ASHA number and your last name.

This year, Oregon does not have any candidates up for election for the ASHA Advisory Councils; Laretta Manning and Laura Polich are both in the middle of their terms. But the ASHA Board of Directors Elections are awaiting your vote!

Last year, Oregon won the award for greatest percentage increase in voter turnout from year to year. Let's try to repeat that honor again this year. Please join me in casting your ballot before May 28, 2015!

Making Connections

Save the Date!



OSHA 2015 Annual Conference

October 9 & 10 | Portland, OR

Dear OSHA Members:

Conference planning is in full swing and I am delighted to have received so many proposals through the call for papers. If you submitted, you should receive notification by May 22. Also, a reminder to those of you with students submitting proposals—the deadline for submission is May 14. I'm looking forward to another year of strong students' projects.

We have two new things planned for the conference – both of which I hope will make for an even better experience. We will be offering half-day sessions on Friday to allow members to hear from two different speakers during the day. I'm very appreciative of our speakers' willingness to present on two topics.

Also on Friday, we will be organizing a networking event during the breakfast hour. I'll be asking for volunteers who have a particular topic they would like to discuss or share. Those individuals will be assigned tables and members will be able to move around and sit in on discussions of a variety of interesting topics. I hope this will be a great way to hear about the innovation and advocacy that is occurring all around Oregon!

The invited speakers for Friday are scheduled and I'm pleased we will be welcoming speakers from near and far to share their expertise. The confirmed speakers are:

- ◆ *Ken Bleile, PhD, CCC-SLP - University of Northern Iowa (speech sound disorders)*
- ◆ *Barbara Ehren, EdD, CCC-SLP – University of Central Florida (adolescent language and literacy)*
- ◆ *Melanie Fried-Oken, PhD, CCC-SLP – Oregon Health Sciences University (AAC)*
- ◆ *Heather Moore, PhD, CCC-SLP – University of Oregon (early intervention)*
- ◆ *Mira Shah, MS, CCC-SLP – Microsoft Corporation (AAC)*
- ◆ *Eva van Leer, PhD, CCC-SLP – Georgia State University (voice and dysphagia)*

Looking forward to seeing you all in October!

Karen McLaughlin, VP for Science and Education

Happy Trails, Ellen Reuler!

by Martin Fischer



Ellen Reuler is retiring from her position as the founding Director of Clinical Education in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Pacific University. Ellen joined Pacific in August 2011 following 15 years as Clinic Director at Portland State University. She received both her bachelors and masters degrees from Northwestern University and, in 2007, was honored as a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Ellen brought to her position at Pacific University a wealth of knowledge and a unique set of skills and experience. Challenged with the task of creating a clinical training program using a community-based approach (no on-campus clinic), Ellen developed a clinical education model that has proved to be both flexible and innovative.

Students, colleagues, and community supervisors have been effusive in their praise:

"Ellen has been a guiding light from the moment I discovered speech-language pathology. I've been blessed to have her as a mentor, colleague and friend"

"She is a true leader who believes in leading by example. Ellen has the unique ability to see potential in others in a way that nobody else would see..."

"I love her ability to always smile no matter how stressed she might be"

"Ellen supported me from day 1, when I began my academic career. She has encouraged me, listened, and provided insight through so many challenging and celebratory times throughout the six years I've worked with her"

While at Pacific, Ellen has taken on a variety of leadership roles including Post-Baccalaureate Student Advisor and Inter-Professional Faculty Representative. She has been instrumental in creating exciting community partnerships including an award-winning collaboration with Cornell Estates, in which graduate students partner with senior residents.

[Read More](#)

OSHA Pub Night in Medford

OSHA Pub Nights are up and running in Medford! 4 Daughters Pub was the perfect location to enjoy a drink, some good food and collegial friendship.

Seven of us attended OSHA Pub Night in Medford on April 16, representing our field from various settings including health care, private practice and the schools. It was a nice time to become better acquainted and share our work experiences. Common challenges were acknowledged and discussed, and connections made. Some expressed the desire to glean knowledge from each other, whether for treatment ideas or with regard to addressing practice challenges. All agreed that 'the more the merrier' is the guiding principle with regard to Pub Night, in hopes that as the word spreads, we will have a greater number in attendance at future gatherings .



Thank you to all those who attended and we look forward to our next Pub Night May 21!

With any questions, feel free to contact Jennifer (Bills) Durham M.A., CCC, Region 3 Representative and SLP Clinic Representative, at Jennifer@thespeechcenter.net

Mary Gordon-Brannan Scholarship at PSU

by Amy Costanza-Smith



Last year, Professor Emerita and OSHA President (1975-1976) Mary Gordon-Brannan and her husband Steve began endowing the Mary Gordon-Brannan Speech and Hearing Scholarship at Portland State University.

Colleagues, past students, family, and friends are joining their efforts to raise the funds for endowment in her honor. During the 7th Annual PSU SPHR-NSSLHA Better Hearing and Speech Month Celebration on May 8, we dedicated our paddle-raiser for this endeavor.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000, which will make it possible to award the Mary Gordon-Brannan Scholarship to students for years to come.

Please consider giving to this scholarship in honor of Dr. Gordon-Brannan:

Online: www.pdx.edu/sphr/home (click on "Give Now") Please choose the option for the Mary-Gordon Brannan Scholarship.

By Phone: Call the PSU Foundation at (503) 725-4911

By Mail: Please make your check payable to the PSU Foundation, PO Box 243, Portland OR 97207-0243. Reference the Mary Gordon-Brannan Scholarship on the memo line of your donation.

Where We Work – Jennifer (Bills) Durham at The Speech Center Plus

by Laura Cook

It's no wonder that Jennifer (Bills) Durham runs a successful private practice, The Speech Center Plus, now in its ninth year. Jennifer's motivation, level of professionalism and passion for what she does was clear as we talked recently about her life as a speech pathologist and business owner in the Rogue Valley of Oregon.

With over 30 years in the field, she brings a lot to the table. Her prior experience was primarily in adult medical settings at the Rehab Institute of Oregon, Asante and Providence Hospitals in Southern Oregon, as well as many skilled nursing facilities in the area. She has experience in acute, home health, and hospice care settings and also did a short stint in public schools. Alongside her experiences in medical settings, she always had a small private practice on the side that allowed her to work with children. She said, with enthusiasm, "I have loved every setting I have ever been in."

In 2006, Jennifer decided to take her collection of clinical knowledge and open her own practice. She serves children and adults and sees "most everything and everyone." Some of her specialty areas include fluency, language and learning disabilities, social cognition, executive functioning skills, developmental apraxia, swallowing, and adult neurogenics. Her treatment model allows her to see clients twice a week, for 45-minute sessions each visit.

In addition to seeing clients onsite, Jennifer also travels to Grant's Pass to work with vocational rehab clients and run social communication groups. Many clients are recent high school graduates navigating the working world and preparing for the next level of independence. She greatly enjoys this aspect of her work, and appreciates the flexibility to include this in her workweek.

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OSHA Pub Night

Join the Conversation

A monthly gathering where the community of communication disorders colleagues can meet, converse, and share perspectives

What: A no-host drop-in get-together

When: Third Thursday, May 21, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Where: In Hood River: [Solstice Pizza & Café](#), 501 Portway Ave
In Medford: [4 Daughters Irish Pub](#), 126 W Main St
In Portland: [Lucky Lab](#), 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd
In Salem: [Gilgamesh Brewing](#), 2065 Madrona Ave SE

Who: Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, OSHA members, Non-OSHA members, OAA members, SLPAs, Students...**all are welcome!**

Check your inbox or the OSHA Facebook Page for more information about summer OSHA Pub Night events in June, July, and August.

(For support starting Pub Night in your area, contact us: OSHAOregon@gmail.com)



OREGON SPEECH-LANGUAGE & HEARING ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association (OSHA) is dedicated to providing the highest level of communication potential to people of all ages.

To learn more about OSHA, click on the links below:

[OSHA Board of Directors](#) | [OSHA Regions](#) | [OSHA Career Center](#)

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Please note our new contact information:

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