

# THE OSHA COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE OREGON SPEECH-LANGUAGE & HEARING ASSOCIATION

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The OSHA Communicator is a publication of the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association and is edited by **OSHA Publications Chair Daniela DeYoung**. If you are interested in submitting an article or advertising in the newsletter, contact the [OSHA office](#).

## President's Message

By Karen Aguilera, OSHA President

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. -Margaret Mead*



Hello, spring! The snowpack is starting to melt, and things are beginning to heat up all around Oregon. Our universities will soon be graduating another class of eager young professionals ready to start their exciting new careers. My hope for all of them is that they find this field to be fulfilling and rewarding.

Speech-language pathology and audiology offer so many career possibilities: a wide range of practice settings, varied populations and disorders to diagnose and treat, exciting new technological tools, teaching and research options. We have the opportunity every day to help people connect with others. Those of us who have chosen this field understand that human communication is one of the most important of all "Activities of Daily Living".

What can we do to ensure that SLPs and Audiologists remain in the field and enjoy long and satisfying careers? What can we do to help them have a truly fulfilling job, doing what they came into this field to do, and not having to spend hours each week on menial clerical tasks? How do we help ensure that caseloads are reasonable? What can be done to see that productivity requirements are not excessively burdensome? How can we help ensure adequate salaries and acceptable working conditions? How can we help those in private practice receive proper reimbursement for the very important work they do? What can be done to help people navigate murky ethical issues in their workplaces?

OSHA is your membership organization, and OSHA is your voice in Salem. OSHA represents the interests of all speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Oregon.

This newsletter issue allows you a little bit of insight into some of the work OSHA volunteers have been doing behind the scenes during the past few months to help OSHA fulfill its very important mission of supporting our professions and advocating for the rights of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders.

If you have an interest in advancing the causes of our professions, consider joining OSHA. If you are already a member, consider volunteering for a board position. Together, we can make a difference!

## Short Session, Big Victory!

By Kathy de Domingo, President Elect and Legislative Chair

In the first OSHA Newsletter for 2016, we reported that an issue brought to our attention by two members working in rural school districts was being addressed in the 2016 Legislative Session. While it was a short session and we had little time to prepare, we are very happy to report that [House Bill 4022](#) successfully passed and has been signed into Law, effective March 1, 2016. The law stays in effect until January 2026, allowing SLPs who are currently drawing retirement from the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System to work for a public employer without jeopardizing their benefits. This is a big victory for those from rural districts, who are called upon by their schools year after year following retirement to serve the many children that need them and would otherwise go either unserved or underserved due to remote districts' challenges filling open positions.

In testimony before the House Committee for Education there were many questions from Representatives about the nature of the shortages and what we as a state are doing to fill the jobs. Representative Margaret Doherty, who chairs the Committee, was able to point to her long history of working with SLPs, from the time she was a college student through bills she has sponsored, to help move the issues forward for so many in the profession and those we serve. We were also able to point to the expanded graduate student numbers, universal licensure, and the addition of SLP Assistants in the last several years.

Your OSHA Board and Committee members, past and present, have been there every step of the way and are already gearing up for 2017's Regular Session. We're planning a Day at the Capitol and at least one or two proposals we hope will lead to introduction of legislation to address concerns regarding school case load numbers and expanding access of school-based services beyond Kindergarten for those children receiving Special Education services under the educational eligibility of Developmental Delay (DD). If you would like to be involved in these and other advocacy efforts, please let us know. Make your voice heard and get involved!

## First Annual OSHA Spring Rural Conference a Success!

By: Rik Lemoncello (OSHA Conference Committee)

On Friday, March 4, 2016, OSHA sponsored its first annual Spring Rural Conference. Dr. Amy Donaldson, Associate Professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Portland State University, presented a 4.5-hour, interactive workshop on "Promoting Social Competence in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders." This workshop included instruction and practice with two evidence-based interventions: video modeling and peer mediation. Dr. Donaldson presented live from the InterMountain ESD office in Pendleton; the presentation was live-streamed to 15 other sites across the state.

In total, 193 professionals from across the state participated in this conference! 193! This turnout was more than we expected, and we were thrilled! Partly because of the nature of the topic, we were also thrilled that participants included an interdisciplinary audience of SLPs, SLP-Assistants, Special Education Teachers, Special Education Instructional Assistants, General Education Teachers, School Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Early Intervention Specialists, and Autism Specialists!

Course evaluation feedback was overwhelmingly positive, despite some technical challenges with this first annual trial. We thank all participants for their patience as we worked out some of the online, technical challenges with live-streaming. Challenges with playing videos, sharing handouts and slides, and seeing live video at all sites presented technical difficulties. The conference planning committee is already actively discussing methods to improve these technical glitches for the next time. Example comments about the content from participants included:

- "The presenter was wonderful. I like the idea of a tele-workshop to be more accessible to SLPs around the state."
- "Great practical information! Thank you for offering this workshop remotely! We live in a remote part of Oregon, and this workshop could involve us."

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# Meet Your Pacific University Student Representative!



Kathleen Quinn-Heaney earned her Bachelor of Arts in Speech Sciences at the University of British Columbia, before completing the post-baccalaureate program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western Washington University. She is currently a first year graduate student at Pacific University and looks forward to pursuing a career in adult medical speech-language pathology after graduation. As a Canadian, she is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of OSHA and gain exposure to advocacy and best practice issues in speech-language pathology and audiology in Oregon. In her free time she enjoys running, cooking, traveling and reading.

## Developmental Delay Ad-Hoc Committee – How Can You Help?

By Jennifer Potegal

In Oregon, preschool-age students with significant delays or differences in two or more domains may qualify for Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services under the category of Developmental Delay (DD). As children transition from ECSE to Kindergarten and school-age Special Education services, DD is no longer recognized as a valid eligibility. For students identified under DD prior to Kindergarten entry, an evaluation is required to determine a categorical eligibility so that they may access Special Education services as they enter school.

While this may sound straightforward enough, many times there is simply no “category” into which our students with DD easily fit. This may necessitate medical appointments to identify an actual or suspected health impairment which, together with educational impact, may allow a child to qualify under Other Health Impairment (OHI). Alternatively, the educational team may pursue an Intellectual Disability (ID) eligibility at an age when we know that IQ is not stable, prematurely identify a child with an Emotional Disturbance (ED), or fall back on the old standby of Communication Disorder (CD) for a student with delays that obviously go beyond a communication impairment. If the family and the evaluation team are unable to find an appropriate eligibility category, some of these students will enter Kindergarten without eligibility and, therefore, without IEP and services despite all evidence that points to their need for additional support.

[Read More](#)

## OSHA Ethics Committee

By Caitlin McDonnell & Jenny Peddicord

Hello fellow OSHA members and those yet-to-be members, the Ethics Committee wants to reach out to you to let you know about what we do and how you can be involved. We are here to provide information and education about ethical issues related to your clinical and workplace practices. We get a variety of queries from folks asking about workplace policies and implementation.

You might work in a school district and be interested in how other districts navigate caseload issues, or you might work in a medical setting and be wondering about how to advocate for services to administration. We love hearing from you and helping people to network and access resources. Our hope is to have a strong group of service providers who feel confident navigating ethical issues related to speech-language pathology and audiology. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or would like resources and education about issues in your area.

We are also looking to add to our committee. It is important that we be as diverse as the people we represent. We especially would love to have representation from providers who live and work outside the Portland metropolitan area. If this interests you, please contact us for more information. We can be reached at [OSHAOregon@gmail.com](mailto:OSHAOregon@gmail.com). Please put ATTN: Ethics Committee in the subject line of your message. We look forward to hearing from you.

# Meet Your New Higher Ed Representative From Pacific University!

By Eric Sanders



I am a speech-language pathologist and faculty member in the school of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Pacific University. I came to Pacific after completing my PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I studied ways to improve the literacy and language skills of children with significant disabilities at the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies. In the graduate program at Pacific, I teach classes focusing on early intervention, school-age language and literacy, and AAC. Before pursuing my PhD, I was a speech-language pathologist for six years in the Miami-Dade County Public School system and for a private practice. Before that, I taught middle school English.

Outside of work, my favorite things include record shopping and exploring nature in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Additionally, I have a radio show on a local radio station ([www.freeformportland.org](http://www.freeformportland.org)) where I get to play some of my favorite records on a weekly basis!

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## OSHA Membership

By Danielle Owen

The Oregon Speech and Hearing Association (OSHA) offers a Lifetime Membership option for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. To qualify for the Lifetime Membership, you must be at least 62 years old and have been a member of OSHA for at least 10 years. You can be working or retired to qualify for this membership level. The Lifetime Membership costs \$10 annually and gives you the same benefits you enjoyed as a regular member of OSHA.

OSHA connects you with other speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech-language pathology assistants from across the state. OSHA also welcomes students who are studying communication sciences and disorders.

Your membership in OSHA supports conferences such as the Spring Conference and the Annual Conference in October, which will be held in Salem, Oregon, this year. Additionally, your membership benefits include legislative advocacy, continuing education and professional development, networking, access to an online membership directory, resources for families and professionals, job postings, and increasing the public's awareness about our field.

For any questions or comments regarding membership, please contact Dani Owen, Membership Chair, at [Danielle@portland.speech.clinic](mailto:Danielle@portland.speech.clinic).

## Save the Date!

OSHA Annual Conference  
October 14-15, 2016  
Salem Conference Center



# Business Meeting Preview

## Andy McMillin, Past President

As you likely know, OSHA runs its annual business meeting during the fall conference in October. This year, we will have a couple of important items on the agenda. You'll be hearing more details in the next newsletter, but I wanted to send out a preview ahead of time.

### Bylaws Revision

Every few years, OSHA reviews its bylaws to ensure that they meet the current needs of the organization and to see if the needs of the organization justify proposing changes to the bylaws. This year, I have been chairing a bylaws review committee, and the committee's recommendation is that we should amend the bylaws this year. A full amendment proposal will be made available following the June Board of Directors meeting, and it will be voted on by the membership in October.

### Election of Officers

As always, we will prepare a slate of officers for election to specific Board positions. This year, we anticipate that there will be vacancies, and we would like to call for nominations for Board positions. Self-nominations are acceptable, as are nominations of colleagues. If you are considering nominating a colleague, please contact them before you nominate to ensure that they are willing to serve in this capacity if elected. This year, we anticipate having two member-elected positions open:

**Vice-President of Finance** (aka Treasurer)  
**Secretary**

In addition, one proposed amendment to the bylaws would change the status of the Legislative Committee Chair position, which is appointed, to an Executive Committee position, which is elected. Should this bylaws change be approved, we will also present a new position to be elected this year:

[Read More](#)

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## Meet Your New OSHA Advertising Chair!

### By Jordan Tinsley

My name is Jordan Tinsley and I am your new advertising chair. I am very excited about this opportunity to connect with other dedicated speech and hearing professionals.



I first realized that I wanted to be a speech therapist when education and science classes in college weren't cutting it for me. A friend then pointed out to me that speech was the perfect blend of the two. That day, I went home and signed up for my first communication disorders class at the University of Oregon and the rest, as they say, is history. Since that time, I have graduated from UO in 2010 and attended graduate school at University of Washington in their Medical SLP program in 2012. I then completed my clinical fellowship year at the Portland VA Medical Center and had the pleasure of learning fundamental clinical skills while serving our nation's veterans. Now I am working for Kaiser Permanente. I started my career with Kaiser in Clackamas at Sunnyside Medical Center and recently transitioned to Skyline Medical Center in Salem. I work with both children and adults, and I love that our profession allows that flexibility (although it is really challenging and works my brain!).

OSHA is doing some wonderful things for our members and for the populations we all serve every day. I hope that, as advertising chair, I will be able to help highlight this good work both to members and to others outside of our organization. I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to meeting many of you at future events!



# Earn CEUs through OSPA!!

By Lisa Stember

**Oregon Speech Pathology Academy (OSPA)** continues to offer low cost CEUs (drop-in cost is \$15 per meeting, yearly membership is \$75) the second Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Legacy Good Samaritan campus in Portland, Oregon. These speakers are all pre-approved by the Oregon state licensing board. Everyone is invited to drop in and network from 6 to 6:30 pm as available. This year's speakers are:

- January 14, 2016 - Amanda Stead, PhD CCC-SLP "The Trouble Baseline Dementia"
- February 11, 2016 - Daria Gray, MS CCC-SLP "The Speak Out Program"
- March 10, 2016 - Gayatri Ram, PhD CCC-SLP "Morphologic Knowledge: Why Should SLPs Care? How do We Assess it, Treat it?"
- April 14, 2016 - Meeting Location: Portland State, Smith 236, Claudia Meyer, MS CCC-SLP "Dynamic Assessment of Children in the Real World"
- May 12, 2016 - Laurie E. Powell, PhD CCC-SLP "Training Problem Solving Skills after Brain Injury"
- June 9, 2016 - Cheryl Green, "Recognizing Ableism in Speech Therapy"
- July 14, 2016 - Kathe Schwartz, MS CCC-SLP "Play Based Therapy"
- August 11, 2016 - Janet Brockman, MS CCC-SLP "Cleft & Craniofacial"
- September 8, 2016 – Abigail Cary, MS CCC-SLP on GERD
- October 13, 2016 - Dr. Mark Tilson, PhD and Neuropsychologist, topic TBD
- November 10, 2016 - Donna Hamilton MOT OTR/L "Sensory Processing"
- December 8, 2016 - Julie Allen, OTR/L "Impact of Vision Deficits on One's Daily Function/Rehab"

OSPA, formerly OASPA, began in 1972 when a group of speech pathologists in private practice wanted regular CEU opportunities. Our board is made up of dedicated SLPs volunteering their time to arrange monthly CEUs in the Portland area.

[Read More](#)

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## The Way We Talk: A Film About Stuttering - Acceptance and Self Dependence

By Cassie Quinn, MS CCC-SLP  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Portland State University

When Michael attended his first meeting at the Portland Stuttering Support Group he likely did not know that his interactions would lead to being the director of this captivating film; a film that would mean so much to so many. Now, almost four years later, Michael is sharing his story across the nation. This impactful film will take you on his journey of acceptance and provide you insight into the lives and experiences of a person who stutters; how stuttering runs long through his family lineage; and, more intriguingly, it will provide you with something deeper.

Michael Turner, winner of the 2015 Oregon Media Arts Fellowship, struggles with one of medical science's most baffling and enduring disabilities—he stutters. On the surface, stuttering is sound and syllable repetitions, prolongations, blocks, and various accompanying physical tics. But as he illustrates in the film, stuttering is like an iceberg, with the major symptoms below the surface. Emotions caused by the disorder— anxiety, depression, denial, and a negative self-image—are rarely confronted in speech therapy or even by people who stutter. Turner explores his own experiences with stuttering and presents the stories of others who are part of the self-help movement within the stuttering community—stories that are relatable to anyone who has experienced feelings of separateness, isolation, or inadequacy in any area of their life, and is trying to make the most of who they are.

For a long time our profession has been categorized as a “helping” field. Students join our programs with the mindset of learning skillsets to “fix” people's disorders. I believe we are on the precipice of change, and this film is a catalyst for that change.

[Read More](#)

# Meet Your OSHA SLPA Representative!

Hello, my name is Shannon Picinisco and I am honored to be the SLPA Representative for OSHA this year. I am completing my eighth year with North Clackamas School District as an SLPA. I also have 16 years experience working in the field of Early Childhood Education.

When my son was 8 years old, he was placed on an IEP for speech and received services in the area of articulation. I attended my first IEP meeting as a parent and was a bit overwhelmed by the lingo to say the least. I wanted to learn more about the field of speech and language pathology and made the decision to enroll in the SLPA program at Chemeketa Community College.

When I am not at work, I like spending time with the family. Even though my son is 21 years old now, I still think it is important to connect with him, whether it is going for a drive to Multnomah Falls or going for a nature walk. Some of my hobbies include: hosting family game nights, arts and crafts, horseback riding, attending rodeos, and camping at the beach.



## OSHA Reaches Out

By Corinne Thomas-Kersting

OSHA has been busy in the past few months reaching out to colleagues and families attending disability advocacy and assistive technology conferences.

We hosted an exhibit at the National TASH Conference held in Portland and the AT NOW conference in Salem. We were able to share information about the services we provide, as well as benefits of membership in OSHA.

Hundreds of SLPs, educators, self-advocates, family members, and service providers visited our table. We gave out a "pocket edition" of the Communication Bill of Rights printed with OSHA information.



*Members Robin Shobe and Corinne Thomas-Kersting greeted attendees at the National TASH Conference in Portland.*



*Kristin Wells speaks with AT NOW Conference attendee Deborah Leshner.*

Thanks to all the OSHA volunteers and students of speech language pathology who worked to make this possible:

Corinne Thomas-Kersting  
Jessica Juozapaitis  
Andy McMillin  
Amy Wilde  
Jennifer Bieda  
Britteny Asher  
Agnes Ng  
Kathy Ware  
Kristin Wells

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# Greetings from the Schools-Based World!

By Debra Levinson

The most exciting piece of news right now is the letter OSHA will be sending to Special Education Directors throughout the state before the end of April. It details the need for observing caseload limits in order to provide FAPE to our students with Communication Disorders. It includes beautiful graphs of ASHA NOMS data, which were transformed from black and white to color by my own SLP-A Kelley Norrell, who plans to start SLP grad work within the year.

Next on my list of “most excitings” is the meeting I had with the Eugene SD SLPs last week. It was great to connect with that group, hear about their successes, challenges, and concerns. One issue raised was concern about how universal licensure will affect those SLPs who have been only TSPC licensed. I was able to get clarification from Erin Haag at BSPA that all TSPC license holders will be able to keep those licenses in place until they retire.

## Other happenings since January:

*Meeting with Dr. Gayatri Ram from Pacific University*

We discussed the important work she’s doing around interprofessional education and collaboration. She facilitates projects between SLP students and student teachers, has an upcoming grant-funded Summer Literacy Camp in which SLP students will team with Reading Specialists, and she leads a seminar on How to be a School-based SLP.

*Meeting with Kathy DeDomingo, OSHA’s legislative liaison, and Genoa Ingram, OSHA’s lobbyist*

We discussed President Aguilera’s idea for a Legislative Day during the next session of the legislature. Kathy suggested focusing advocacy efforts at the state and local levels on cost-savings gained by centralizing case management to allow us to work at the top of our licenses, especially given the shortage of SLPs in much of the state. [Read More](#)

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## Springtime in Pendleton

By Andy McMillin

I had the distinct pleasure of travelling to Pendleton in March for this year’s OSHA Spring Conference. This is the first time in more than two decades that OSHA has been able to host a CE event in Pendleton, and the event was a tremendous success.

The InterMountain ESD (IMESD) graciously provided a room for the live presentation, featuring Dr. Amy Donaldson



talking on promoting social competence among children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Attendance was robust in Pendleton, with more than 30 participants live in the room.

In addition, IMESD provided the streaming technology that allowed us to connect with other sites across the state. Not having done this before, we were unsure how much interest there would be in such a virtual presentation. We had hoped for five or six different sites to stream in, and perhaps to get 40-50 participants in total. In the end, we conferenced with 17 districts, and altogether, more than 180 professionals participated in the event.

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](#)

[OSHA News & Events](#) | [OSHA Resources](#) | [OSHA Member Center](#)



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