



Summer Communicator

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Summer! We've had a lot of trouble getting The Communicator published this year and hope that those troubles are behind us.

I know this is late, but as your new President, I'd like to introduce myself and let you know a little bit about me. I was born in a small town in Vermont, but grew up on the island of Guam. I have 2 brothers (one a twin) and 2 sisters. My twin and I are the oldest. I completed a BS in Psychology and Speech Therapy at Kansas State University in 1980 and my M.Sc. in Communication Sciences & Disorders from the University of Vermont in 1986. In 1987 I moved to Ottawa, Ontario Canada [the capitol - not Toronto] and had the pleasure of working in various venues, including: the schools, the Children's Hospital, private practice and as an independent contractor. In 1993 I moved to Galveston, TX and worked one year in the public school system then returned to Ottawa and opened a catering business [I absolutely LOVE food, especially chocolate!]. In 1998 while camping and touring the US & Canada, I got reacquainted with a man, in Butte, who had grown up across the street from our family on Guam. In 2001 I moved to Butte, to pursue that relationship and was lucky enough to get a job with the Butte School District #1. In 2004 I opened up a private practice, Communication Matters, and worked there evenings and weekends until last summer, at which time I began working at my practice full-time.

At the beginning of this year, because economic times are difficult and we need to be careful and prudent with our monies, I took a hard look at the organizations I support. As a result, I believe MSHA is one of the organizations worth supporting and giving my hard earned money to. But, I also believe that MSHA has a lot of potential to become a more member and consumer friendly organization. Because there are things that I'd like to see MSHA doing for members (me) and consumers, I've obviously gotten involved. I'd like you to consider doing the same. MSHA is a volunteer organization and we can't grow or improve without you. I believe that we are an organization of unquestionably dedicated and committed professionals. I also believe that we are an organization of varied talents and interests that could be put to good use where MSHA is concerned. If you want to see MSHA doing something or improving in someway, please step up to the plate and lend us your ideas and hand. We want and need all the help we can get to stay viable in these hard economic times. There are a number of committees that would welcome your help, and some that are desperate for extra input/help. So please consider giving of your knowledge, skills and time to MSHA!

During this year, and my too short tenure, I would like to lay the foundation to:

- ❖ **Increase Consumer awareness & knowledge** of who we are through distribution of brochures, placed in various venues, including businesses, hospitals, clinics, schools, etc., and possibly through radio/TV ads or commercials. We have some old brochures that need updating. Is this something you could assist with? We also have a TV spot format we are allowed to copy. Is this something you could help with?
- ❖ **Reactivate Welcome** brochures or packages for new professionals working in the state with a membership registration form. We need to update our old brochures. Is this something you are good at and enjoy doing?
- ❖ **Improve web site function.** We have made some strides in this, but continue to need assistance, information and ideas.
- ❖ **Increase Corporate sponsorships** for Summer Institute, Fall Convention, Community Outreach, Prevention Committee, etc.. I don't believe our members can carry the brunt of our needs as an organization. We need to find sponsors who share our vision/mission to assist us.
- ❖ **Increase UM & MSHA collaboration** We are off to a good start. The Chair of the Department and Student representative will be non-voting members of our Executive Board.
- ❖ **Reestablish Area Reps** as go to people for professionals, consumers and members. [Would you be interested? Give me a call]
- ❖ **Improve continuing education opportunities** for those in hospital and private practice settings. While the majority of our membership is school-based, we do have paying members working in other venues and I feel we need to do a better job of including them in our workshop/seminar planning. [If any of you in these settings have ideas on this, please contact me and/or the convention/summer institute chairs].
- ❖ **Reorganize our Committees.** A number of our committees have had no "action" or information to share for years. We need to establish committees that work for us and allow us to get our needs met.

As you can see, we've a busy year or more ahead. It's a bit overwhelming, but I know that I don't have to do all this by myself. While these are the things I'd like to see happen, I'd be interested to know what **you'd** like to see happen. I believe in consensus and being up-front, so don't hesitate to let me know how I (and the Board) can help you. We look forward to serving you this year and growing MSHA into an organization that is visible, viable and exciting. You can contact me directly. Enjoy the rest of your summer! I look forward to seeing you at Fall Convention.

Jennifer Pierce

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PS. Yes, I'm still involved with the man from Guam! ☺

Clarification on the new CEU law

The new law states that the 40 hours have to be "approved" not ASHA approved. So all of the 40 hours can be solely MSHA approved hours or OPI approved, etc... The new law was written to remove ASHA reference since ASHA does not serve all the SLP's and AUd's in the state anymore.

Fall Convention 2009

- **Holiday Inn Grand Montana Hotel and Convention Center**
 - 5500 Midland Road in Billings
 - call 248-7701 and tell them you are with the MSHA to get discounted pricing on your room
 - reservations need to be made prior to September 14th to get our discounted price
 - other hotels are:
 - The Clubhouse Inn - 5610 S. Frontage Road - 248-9800
 - Billings Hotel and Convention Center - 1223 Mallowney Ln - 248-7151
 - Kelly Inn - 5425 Midland Rd. - 252-2700
 - Motel 6 - 5400 Midland Rd - 252-0093
 - Red Roof Inn - 5353 Midland Rd - 248-7551
- **October 15 – 17, 2009**
- **We are planning varied speakers and topics that will be useful to both medical and school-based therapists:**
 - Executive Functioning – Jill Fahy from E. Illinois University
 - Auditory Verbal Therapy / Cochlear Implants – Don Goldberg from Cleveland Clinic
 - Auditory Electrophysiology (ASSR, VEMPS, etc) and Tinnitus managements – Sharon Sandridge, Cleveland Clinic
 - Dysphagia topics – Jonalyn Brown – Evergreen Healthcare, Laurel & Crystal Pardy – St. Vincent Healthcare
- **Reserve the dates and mark your calendars!!!!**

Aide Track

An Aide track will again be offered this year. Cost for the aide track will be \$50, including the MSHA luncheon.

- Thursday morning - Tricks of the Trade: Developing Speech Sound Patterns and Articulation by Dr. Lucy Hart Paulson
- Thursday afternoon - Evidence based practice for language delays and disorder in school aged population, or "I have a goal now what do I do in therapy" By Christine Merriman
- Friday morning - Treatment for Autism By Colleen Fay
- Friday afternoon - Real Sign Language for Real Kids by Kitty Griffin

Upcoming events

Program Title:	Dementia Therapy: Achieving Positive Outcomes for the Person With Dementia
Date/s of Program:	September 25-26, 2009
Location of Program:	Marriott Seattle Airport 3201 South 176th Street Seattle, WA 98188
Cost of Program:	\$425 (group discounts available)
Brief Description:	Over 4,000 professionals, including many Speech-Language Pathologists, have attended this course and learned advanced evaluation and treatment skills, effective treatment planning using the Allen Cognitive Levels and Theory of Retrogenesis, how to document and code for Medicare reimbursement, and much more. Contact Hours: 13. ASHA approved.
Contact Information:	To register, contact kris@dementiacarespecialists.com or call 1-919-245-3447. For more information, visit www.DementiaCareSpecialists.co