



AUDIOLOGY ADVOCATE

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FLORIDA ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

A Message from the **President**

Legislative Update

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University of Florida

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Meet the New FLAA Executive Staff

11th Annual FLAA Convention

August 30 - September 1, 2007



The Academy State Office has moved! Our Executive Director, Lisa Beard, had the opportunity to pursue new interests and ventures. We thank her for all of the hard work she has provided and wish her well in her endeavors. Having said that, I would like to announce that the board has approved a new management company,

Small Association Management, Inc., to pick up where Ms. Beard left off and to assist us in building upon our already solid foundation. Ms. Rosie Small and Ms. Margie Walden will be working closely with the board and we welcome them and their expertise. They have been very successful in managing both large and small organizations and their resumes more than speak for themselves! We are excited to start this new chapter in our continued development. Welcome Rosie and Margie!

2006, what a fabulous year! Our 10th annual convention was a success! Sincere thanks to Dr. Scheitler for your outstanding leadership and for all of the time and energy you put into the Florida Academy as our President and to Dr. Ali Danesh for preparing a phenomenal convention. You probably didn't hear it often enough, but we are very grateful. In addition, I would like to thank the entire FLAA board for their dedication and contributions to the Academy. FLAA has a fresh, enthusiastic new face on the board this year, Dr. Stan Gustetic. Dr. Gustetic expressed an interest to fill a vacant position and his experiences will ultimately enhance the board's diversity. Thank you Stan for jumping in with both feet and volunteering your time to be the academy's next President. A special thanks to Dr. Fred Rahe (VP-Professional Issues/Legislative Affairs) for stepping in when Dr. Kemker moved out of state. It was crucial that FLAA maintain connections with our lobbyist and Dr. Rahe (along with Dr. Barry Freeman) was able to step up to the plate and put his political expertise to use. As a result of our hard work and our lobbying efforts, the state licensure law was re-written and was finally passed. For those of you who were unable to attend the 2006 conference, we had a membership reception & celebration in honor of this accomplishment. Kudos to all that were instrumental in this legislative victory! This year FLAA has chosen to work with FLASHA on legislative issues and not employ our own lobbyist. Lobbyists are a necessary part of an organization, yet they are quite costly. Being as there isn't a specific bill on the table this year the board

A Message from the President

*Lisa M. Almond, Au.D., FAAA, President
The Florida Academy of Audiology*

decided to use the budgeted money elsewhere. Contributions to the Political Action Committee (PAC) are still graciously accepted: they will ensure that your voice is heard in Washington by enabling the PAC to support pro-audiology legislators who share our concerns. So please make your contribution and remember that no contribution is too small and that every little bit will help audiologists in the long run. Thank you in advance.

As our profession evolves, it will require YOU, the clinician, to play an integral role in taking our profession to the next level. We strive for autonomy, yet we cannot go at it alone. We need your help, your involvement and your ideas. To some, audiology may just be a "job," however, to others it is a profession.... a career. The board can only do so much flying solo and we desire your input, your expertise and your active participation. We are well aware that when you get that dues renewal notice you cringe (b/c ASHA and AAA have sent theirs too and let's not forget when we get our state license renewal!). We need more than your time, your commitment, and your interest (although all of those are always welcome!). Membership dues are our lifeline, without money all your interest in the world will not and cannot achieve our goals. Dr. Suzanne Younker will be addressing how membership dues ultimately benefit you.

FLAA is always looking for fresh faces, new ideas and we welcome helping hands.

Please save the date and join us in St. Petersburg Aug.30-Sept.1, 2007. We will be hosting our convention at the Vinoy over Labor Day weekend. So, bring your family and make a mini-vacation out of your stay at the Vinoy. I am looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you in St. Petersburg this summer. Let's have a great year!

New Academy State Office address:

Rosie Small & Margie Walden, Executive Directors
Florida Academy of Audiology
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***MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2007 ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE DUE TO THE LOBBYING COSTS INCURRED BY FLAA.**

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FROM THE VP, COMMUNICATIONS



Richard Saul, Ph.D.
VP Communications

Welcome to the Winter, 2007 issue of the Advocate... and, with the new year, we welcome our new Executive Directors, Rosie Small and Margie Walden of Small Association Management, Inc.. They are now officially "on the job" and will be working with the Academy to help us further develop our effectiveness. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our previous Executive Director, Lisa Beard, for her tireless work helping to manage academy affairs. For me, as VP Communications, Lisa was instrumental in getting each issue of the Advocate to press efficiently. Thank you, Lisa!

Florida Audiologists are on the go-internationally! In this issue Fred Rahe, our very own VP Professional Issues/Legislative Affairs reports on two (yes TWO!) humanitarian missions to provide audiology services to children. The trip to Guatemala included students from Nova Southeastern University's Au.D. program; the visit to Trinidad included both Nova Southeastern Au.D. students as well as University Faculty. It's so great to see our audiologists participating in these significant global activities!

And....speaking of international, I am excited to share my own experience teaching Audiology in Malaysia this past fall.

Our student research forum highlights the dynamic work being done at Florida's Universities. We have a fascinating report, submitted by Kristen Johnston, Au.D. (with her mentor Jay Hall, Ph.D.) from the University of Florida, concerning early identification and subsequent intervention for auditory processing dysfunction: EARS - Early Auditory Reading Success. Dr. Johnston was a doctoral student at the time the research was conducted and is currently an Audiologist in the Department of Communicative Disorders. Their contribution is a well appreciated addition to the Advocate.

We're now looking to our 11th annual convention in St. Petersburg to be yet another dynamic educational forum. Sessions are being planned in scientific and clinical aspects of audiology as well as practice management. Our conventions give us the opportunity to get together, learn, share information and ideas, and---have fun! Mark your calendars for August 30, 31, September 1, 2007, at the Renaissance Vinoy!

Also, If you have information that you would like to share with Florida audiologists (for publication in the Advocate)-send me an email at rsaul@prodigy.net

-Rick Saul, Ph.D.
VP, Communications

University of Florida in the News!

The Audiology Foundation of America (AFA) awarded its highest honor, the AFA Award for Educational Excellence, during the Academy of Dispensing Audiologists (now the Academy of Doctors of Audiology) Annual Convention to the University of Florida in October, 2006.

AFA presented its first ever Leo Doerfler Memorial Scholarship to Dr. Kristin Johnston who recently received her AuD degree from the University of Florida and is now enrolled in the PhD program. Dr. Johnston plans to combine her clinical career with research and teaching, in the spirit of Dr. Doerfler.

Two PhD students from the University of Florida are

recipients of the 2007 American Academy of Audiology Student Research Awards. Jay Sheehan received the award for his doctoral dissertation "Outcomes of FM Usage in Places of Worship" and Nicole Kreisman received the award for her doctoral dissertation "Psychosocial Impact of APD: Implications for Audiologists." Only 5 of these awards are given each year. Both will present their research at the AAA convention.

Florida Audiologist in the News

Nancy Green, AuD, received the annual David P. Goldstein Outstanding Audiologist Award given by the AFA for her significant contribution to transforming the profession into a doctoral one. She is an industrial audiologist in Jacksonville, FL.

2007 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Fred Rahe, Au.D.
VP, Professional Issues

The Florida Academy of Audiology will not be actively introducing legislation during the 2007 Florida Legislature. We are, however, working closely with the Florida Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (FLASHA). FLASHA is intending on having legislation introduced that is primarily a continuation of last year's bill that served to update our licensing act to reflect current education requirements and practice standards.

Below is a summary of substantive changes that are proposed to the practice act.

- ◆ Recognizes American Board of Audiology certification
- ◆ Adds "...the application of principles, methods, and procedures for the prevention, identification, evaluation, consultation, habilitation, rehabilitation, instruction, nonmedical intervention, and research, relative to balance" to the definition of the practice of audiology.
- ◆ Adds the term: "audiological diagnosis"
- ◆ Remove t-coil language requiring audiologists to counsel all patients on t-coil technology
- ◆ Directs the Board to develop rules for the supervision of assistants
- ◆ Remove pure tone and speech testing requirement and audiometer requirement and replaces with: "Age-appropriate techniques to determine level of hearing loss that may include auditory evoked potentials, sound field audiometric techniques, pure tone audiometry, and/or speech threshold measurements."
- ◆ Changes Medical evaluation requirements for adults to be consistent with FDA rules. A repeat medical evaluation would not be needed for children under 18 years of age for fitting of an in-warranty replacement hearing aid.
- ◆ Changes refund requirement for a hearing aid lost or damaged during trial. If a hearing aid is lost or damaged beyond repair during the 30 day trial period, and the hearing aid is replaced under the manufacturer's loss and damage warranty, the audiologist shall not be required to provide a refund.
- ◆ Allows return of repaired hearing aids through the mail.

FLAA will be coordinating strategy and working on compromise language with FLASHA during the upcoming legislative session.



View of the pool at the
Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Spa
in St. Petersburg, FL, site of the
FLAA's 2007 Annual Convention

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for January 2007:

AmSouth Business Checking	\$ 12,399.48
AmSouth CD's	31,749.27
AmSouth Money Market	22,848.89
FLAA-P.A.C.	7,918.50
Total Bank Accounts	\$74,916.14

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Debra Shimon, Au.D.
Treasurer

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EARS - EARLY AUDITORY READING SUCCESS

by Kristin N. Johnston, Au.D. & James W. Hall III, Ph.D.

Department of Communicative Disorders
University of Florida

An estimated 2 or 3% of school age children have auditory processing disorder (APD). Early identification of APD for these children can contribute to enhanced academic performance, including reading success. We implemented a screening program initially in four Title I schools of a public school district to detect peripheral auditory dysfunction as well as auditory processing disorder in at risk kindergarten children. The program is referred to as Early Auditory Reading Success (EARS) because the goal is to identify auditory processing disorder in a timely fashion with immediate intervention to develop fundamental reading skills. An indirect result of the EARS program was the development a more efficient screening protocol for identifying peripheral auditory dysfunction in the younger school aged population. Also as a result of the EARS program, we have now successfully implemented a quick and objective screening protocol in Head Start Programs in two counties. The outcome of the EARS program, as documented one year after its implementation, is the successful identification of kindergarten children at risk for reading failure due in part to auditory processing difficulties, and effective intervention for auditory and reading deficits using a multiple-component strategy.

To date, there are no published investigations of screening for auditory function in kindergarten children

(< 6 years of age). Guidelines for audiologic screening of children birth to 5 years of age published by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) mention the consideration of otoacoustic emissions, but rely entirely on behavioral auditory procedures and protocols (Diefendorf, 2005). In a paper describing a study of over 1000 first grade children, Lyons, Kei, & Driscoll (2004) conclude: "when the results of a test protocol, which incorporates both DPOAEs and tympanometry, were used in comparison with the gold standard of pure-tone screening plus tympanometry, test performance was enhanced. In view of its high performance, the use of a protocol that includes both DPOAEs and tympanometry holds promise as a useful tool in the hearing screening of schoolchildren, including difficult-to-test children." (p. 702). We extended this hearing screening approach to the kindergarten population.

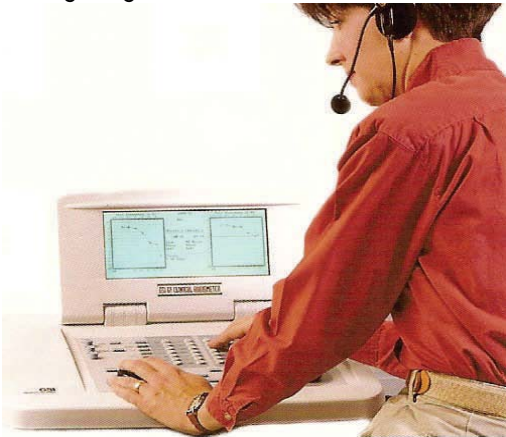
The EARS program was designed to address the following three research questions: What combination of auditory measures (pure tone audiometry, tympanometry, and otoacoustic emissions) is most efficient for screening hearing and auditory processing in kindergarten children? Can the outcome of screening for auditory processing disorders contribute to detection of children at risk for reading failure? Is intensive intervention for children with auditory processing and

reading readiness deficits effective in preventing reading failure and in promoting academic success? The EARS program was initially proposed and implemented in four public elementary schools within the Alachua County School District during the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 academic years. The program was initially funded by various sources as a special project. Each participating school met Title 1 criteria meaning free breakfast and lunch provided to the majority of the children in the school. The program included 322 children 5 years of age with 139 female and 153 male. For comparison of outcome data, three control Title I schools of similar socioeconomic status and student populations were included for data analysis. Only three were included

EARS, Continued on page 8

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because only three of the participating EARS schools completed the standardized testing used for outcome data in this study.

Due to the success of the initial EARS program, the School Board of Alachua County incorporated it as a formally funded part of the county's core curriculum for reading, after the EARS program was approved by the Florida Center for Reading Research. As a result, in the 2006/2007 academic year nine schools that meet Title 1 and Reading First criteria are enrolled in the EARS program. EARS outcome data are presented in this paper for the children from the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 academic years. Outcome data at collected at the end of the first grade year are also summarized for the children from the 2004/2005 kindergarten year.

There are five basic components of the EARS program:

1. All kindergarten children are screened for hearing sensitivity and auditory processing.
2. Soundfield FM amplification systems are installed in all kindergarten classrooms.
3. All kindergarten children complete Earobics computer based program for developing auditory and pre-reading skills.
4. Classroom teachers receive in-service training on phonological awareness and auditory skills, which they focus on for 15 minutes daily with students in small groups.
5. Children with abnormal performance on the Staggered Spondaic Words (SSW) test receive intensive one-on-one or small group instruction on auditory and pre-reading skills.

Hearing screenings were completed during the first part of the academic year, including peripheral hearing and auditory processing. Auditory processing disorder (APD) is broadly defined as a deficit in processing of information that is specific to the auditory modality (Jerger & Musiek, 2000). Peripheral hearing was screened using a typical screening protocol including otoscopy, tympanometry, otoacoustic emissions (OAEs), and pure tone audiometry. Screening of auditory processing was completed using a dichotic listening procedure, specifically the first 20 test items of the Staggered Spondaic Words (SSW) test. The SSW was chosen due to the availability of sufficient normative data for children 5 years of age. Screenings for language and reading readiness were also completed using the Early Reading Screening Inventory (ERSI) (Lombardino, Morris, Mercado, DeFillipo, Sarisky, & Montgomery, 1999). The ERSI is a well-accepted measure of reading

readiness that was found to correlate highly with results of auditory processing screening. The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), a screening measure of reading readiness, was used because it is routinely given at four intervals to all kindergarten children in the state of Florida. The DIBELS was administered by school personnel with no knowledge of the EARS program.

Results of screening showed that pass and fail rates for pure tone audiometry were highly correlated with pass and fail rates for tympanometry and OAEs, supporting the use of a combination of results of tympanometry and OAEs alone (without pure tone screening) for screening peripheral hearing kindergarten children. The fail rate for the SSW was an alarming 46% while the combined fail rate for peripheral screening measures (pure tone audiometry, tympanometry, and OAEs) was 35%. For kindergarten children participating in the EARS program, DIBELS outcome data showed differences in reading readiness in comparison to data for children in the control schools. The greatest differences were seen in more advanced reading skills such as oral language vocabulary and reading comprehension. On these measures, children in the EARS schools placed in the 40th and 57th national percentile ranks respectively while children in the control schools were in the 21st and 38th national percentile. It is important to note that the control schools were also Title 1 and Reading First schools already receiving some type of (non-EARS) intensive reading intervention due to their classification. Another encouraging finding was that for the EARS schools oral reading fluency skills were established in 56% (over half) of the students with 27% emerging and 17% showing deficit. In contrast, in the control schools 45% (less than half) had established oral reading fluency skills while 37% were emerging and 18% were showing deficits in this area.

Multiple Tiers of Reading Instruction Models: Conventional (e.g., Torgesen, 2005) vs. Early Intervention (EARS)

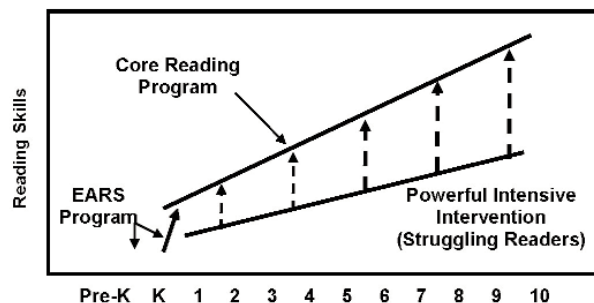


Figure 1 (on page 8) shows a model of the normal progression of students through the core reading curriculum, and the widening gap between successful readers and those who would be considered "struggling" readers. The EARS program is unique in that early and intensive multi-component intervention is initiated for children at risk for reading failure. With this early intervention approach, children are able to reach a level of reading success with their peers in kindergarten and first grade rather than struggling with reading and falling further behind their peers in reading abilities.

In conclusion, the results of auditory processing screening can be used to identify children at risk for reading and academic failure. All kindergarten children in Title 1 schools benefit from the following interventions: adequate acoustic learning environment (classroom), enhancement of phonologic awareness instruction by the classroom teacher, and therapy for auditory processing and pre-reading skills (Earobics). Intensive intervention for children with auditory processing and phonologic awareness deficits improves early literacy skills. The program offers effective intervention for kindergarten children at risk for reading failure.

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WHO DO YOU KNOW?



*Donna Lange Scheitler, Au.D.
Past-President*

Quite often board members are nominated by their friends or they volunteer to run for an office only after being encouraged. I'm sure you know someone who would make a great FLAA board member. Probably in less than 1 minute you could think of a list of members who would either be a good VP of Professional Issues, Membership, Communication or even President Elect. Here's a few hints how to choose your nominees. Think of someone who would enjoy talking with senators about our state licensing laws or discuss reimbursement with executives of insurance companies. Do you know someone who can easily express their ideas and could eloquently describe the benefits of academy membership or has the ability to readily approach other persons to join a worthy cause? What about someone who understands the importance conveying timely information, or is excellent at graphic design and in another life could have been a newspaper editor? Know anyone who has leadership skills and has a genuine interest in moving our profession forward? Or do you know of anyone who would like to contribute by being an active member of the academy but is not sure what position they may be suited for or how much time it would take? Email or call our state office with your list of potential nominees. We will contact the members on your list and at least let them know that you recognize their abilities.

ASK THE ADVOCATE

Topic: Hearing Aid Batteries: Often the question is raised by patients regarding the best way to monitor the life of their hearing aid battery. This question was posed on the Audiology on Line Website January 15, 2007 in the "Ask the Expert" section. The response is from Tom Bagley who serves as the Divisional Vice President - Sales at Rayovac Batteries.

Q: Is there a device that is more accurate for testing batteries? The battery testers now seem to give the same information on the same batteries.

A: Rayovac does offer a battery tester. It is not a precision instrument and we sell it for under \$5. I can guarantee that a \$5 battery tester is not very precise. You can find a higher precision battery tester in the retail market from places like Radio Shack and they may cost around \$100. The best test for a battery is if you put it in a device and the device powers up properly, then it's a good battery. The battery tester can only confirm that the battery is good, not the length of service you can expect from the battery because of the flat discharge curve of a zinc air battery. Tom Bagley

Topic: Prepping Patients for ABRs: Taken from Audiology on Line's January 15, 2007 "Ask the Expert" the topic of electrode placement tips and tricks for electrophysiological testing was addressed: The response is from David P. Speidel, M.S., FAAA, Director of Audiology Services, Interacoustics USA

Q: Do you have any tricks or tips on prepping patients for electrophysiological testing for ABRs?

A: Absolutely. One of the biggest factors in prepping a patient is getting the contact point on the skin nice and clean. We recommend that you always use the abrasive preparation gel (ex: NuPrep) to make sure that the top layer of skin (epidermis) is cleaned and oil is removed. After you wipe away the remaining NuPrep the skin will become a little red - after an appropriate preparation, and it is typical to get impedances below 3 kOhm. Be careful not to be too rough.

If you have questions for "Ask the Advocate" please email them to: jshelfer@floridaaudiology.org.

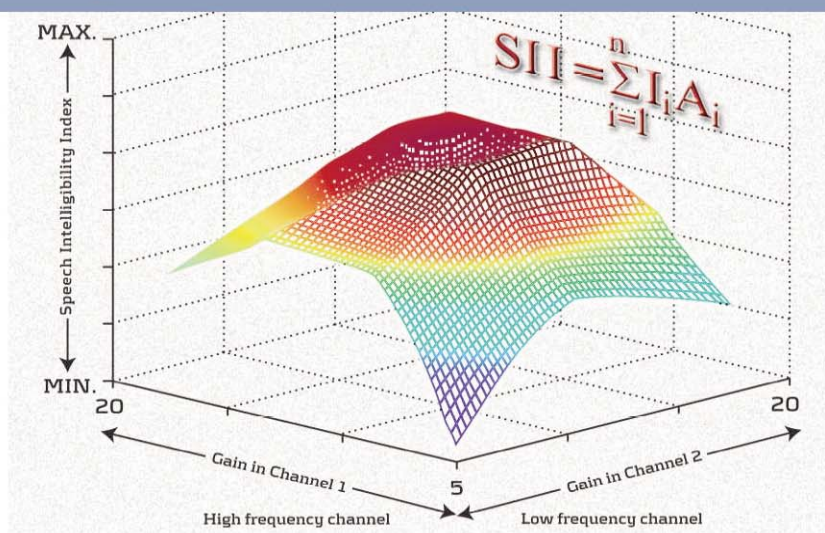
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FROM THE FLAA EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Rosie Small
FLAA Executive Director

Please allow me to introduce myself to you. On January 1st of this year, I took over the management of the Florida Academy of Audiology, and became, along with my associate, Margie Walden, your Executive Director.

I come to you with thirty years of experience as an Executive Director of professional associations. From 1977 to 1999, I managed bar associations, from Fairfax County, Virginia to the State Bar of Nevada, to the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. In 1999, I moved to Florida to run the South Florida District Dental Association, an arm of the American Dental Association. Last year, I opened my own management company, Small Association Management, Inc., and hired Margie Walden to work with me. We are very selective in which organizations we take on as clients, but I must say, we were most impressed with the Florida Academy of Audiology. Your officers and your Board have a commitment to their Academy that you don't see in many professional organizations. It is a privilege to work with them, and to work for you.

I wish I could reach out and meet every one of you, and perhaps I can do that in August at the FLAA's 2007 Annual Convention in St. Petersburg, FL. Did you know that you can already go online to reserve your room at the hotel? The link is <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/tpasr?groupCode=faafaaa&app=resvlink>, and it will take you to the Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club site where the FLAA information is already entered. I am concerned that, because the Convention is being held over Labor Day weekend, the hotel may sell out before every FLAA member reserves a room. So don't be left out - go online now and make your reservation.

You can also find this information and the link to the hotel on the FLAA's website, www.floridaaudiology.org. I would encourage you to check the website on a regular basis, as new items will be appearing daily. We have just added a section of Classified Ads. Ads are free for FLAA members, so please feel free to email your classified ad to me at rsmall@floridaaudiology.org. Coming up in the future on the website will be updates on legislative activity, a list of members, and links to other organizations of interest to FLAA members.

If you have not yet paid your 2007 FLAA dues, please do so at your earliest convenience. When the FLAA talks to the Legislature or the press, we will have much more credibility if we can accurately say that we represent 100% of the Audiologists in Florida. Tell your colleagues about the FLAA and the benefits of membership, and encourage them to join.

Please don't be a stranger to your FLAA Executive Office staff. We welcome your calls at 1-866-353-FLAA, or you can call me directly on my cell phone, 305-613-2742. I'll always answer the phone for an FLAA member - unless I'm out on the tennis court, where I probably spend about 3 hours a day! And since I'm a tennis player and not a golfer, I can't help but wonder if anyone but me is interested in holding a "Round Robin" tennis function at the Vinoy during the 2007 Annual Convention. My email address is rsmall@floridaaudiology.org - send me an email if you would like to play some tennis at the Vinoy in August!

Please take advantage of this change of management companies to let your FLAA leaders know how the Florida Academy can serve you better. What can we be doing that we're not? Where would you like to see us use our resources - our funds and our man and woman power? What would you like to see in the Advocate and on the website that would help improve your practice and your quality of life? And most importantly, how would you like to help? How can we count on you?

Next issue will feature your other Executive Director, Margie Walden.

Now included on the FLAA web site - CLASSIFIED ADS!
Go to <http://www.floridaaudiology.org> and click on Classified Ads;
Place your classified ad by emailing it to rsmall@floridaaudiology.org

FLORIDA AUDIOLOGISTS TAKE PART IN HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS



Brooke Muskat, John Chonka in Guatemala with family with Treacher-Collins Syndrome



The Trinidad Team: (L-R) Beasan Hamdan, Barry Freeman, Teri Hamill, and Trinidadian kids



Allison Shapiro with hearing impaired child and mom in Guatemala.



Guatemalan audiologist Paty Castellanos with Treacher-Collins Syndrome child



A happy Guatemalan hearing aid recipient

Florida Academy Board Member Fred Rahe and past Board member John Chonka traveled to Guatemala in October with four Nova Southeastern University Doctor of Audiology students to provide assistance in a program to fit over 450 children with hearing aids. Students Brooke Muskat, Brandy Pouliot, Stephanie Born and Allison Shapiro accompanied Drs. Rahe and Chonka. The new digital hearing aids were paid for by a grant of over \$170,000 from McDonalds Corporation in Guatemala. Every year on "McDia Feliz", McDonalds donates all the proceeds from sales of Big Mac hamburgers in Guatemala to the Ronald McDonald Children's Foundation. Guatemalan audiologist (and University of Florida Au.D. distance student) Patricia Castellanos de Munoz organized the hearing aid program. The 450 children had been identified, had their hearing tested, and ear molds ordered in the preceding months. The Florida team fit and adjusted the hearing aids on the children in Guatemala City as well as Quetzaltenango and Coban, two cities in more rural areas of the country. The trip included flying over the mountains in a vintage Guatemalan Air Force transport plane.

In December, a Nova Southeastern University team of faculty and students traveled to Trinidad and Tobago and performed over 160 audiological evaluations on children. The project was organized in conjunction with the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health, and local Rotary Clubs. The team, including faculty members Barry Freeman, Teri Hamill and Fred Rahe, and students Beason Hamdan, Megan McCabe, Tricia Sheehan, Bethany Wiseman, Brandy Pouliot and Sarah Wakefield, plan on returning in early 2007 to fit hearing aids on the children.

In addition to the humanitarian aspect of the mission. The students were able to see and work with children with a variety of syndromes not commonly seen in the United States.



Stephanie Born checks fit of ear mold in Guatemala



"The team" prepares for flight over the mountains of Guatemala.



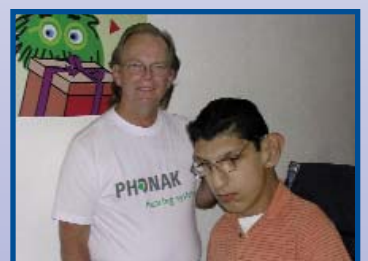
Fred Rahe, Paty Castellanos and hearing impaired siblings in Guatemala



Brandy Pouliot and child with Waardenberg Syndrome in Trinidad



Hearing impaired kids in Trinidad



Fred Rahe and young Guatemalan man with unidentified syndrome

2007 Elections

Calling All Bright, Enthusiastic Florida Academy Members Nominations for Service To Begin in 2008

Spring is in the air and it is time to look to the new generation of leadership for the Florida Academy of Audiology. This is the forum for defining our professional goals and mapping out the path to their success. Elections for the 2008 opening positions are on the horizon and nominations are being sought. All enthusiastic, impassioned members, please apply! Listed are the offices being sought and their job descriptions.

1. **President Elect:** The President elect shall act in all cases for and as the President in the latter's absence or incapacity, and shall perform such other duties as may be required from time to time. The President-Elect shall ascend naturally to the office of President upon expiration of the President's term, in which case the President-elect shall assume the office of President. Duties as directed by the President. Term of Office: One year.

President in 2009. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Academy; shall preside at all meetings of the members and directors; shall have general and active management of the affairs of the Academy; shall see that all orders and resolutions of the board are carried into effect, subject however, to the right of the directors to delegate any specific powers, except such as may be by statute exclusively conferred on the President, to any other officer or officers of the Academy. The President, joined by the secretary, shall execute bonds, mortgages and other documents requiring a seal, under the seal of the Academy. The President shall be ex-officio, a member of all committees and shall have the general powers, duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of President. In addition, the President shall be responsible for the planning of the annual meeting, as well as other professional meetings as necessary and appropriate with the approval of the Executive Board. Term of Office: One year. 7.

Past President: The President shall, upon completion of term of office, automatically become Past-President. The Past-President shall be the Chair of the Nominations Committee and shall serve as special advisor to the Executive Board. Term of Office: One year.

2. **Vice-President of Membership Services:** The Vice-President of Membership Services shall be responsible for keeping the administrative record of all current members, receive applications for membership in the academy, and shall review each application and recommend action to the Board of Directors. The Vice-President of Membership Services shall serve as the chair of membership committee. Term of Office: Two years.

3. **Vice-President of Professional Issues:** The Vice-President of Professional Issues shall be responsible for the monitoring of legislative activities which may have an effect on the practice of audiology in the State of Florida, and to report same to the President and the Board. The Vice-President of Professional Issues shall serve as the chair of any professional or legislative issues committees. Term of Office: Two years.

4. **Vice President for Communication:** The Vice President of Communication shall be responsible for the Florida Academy of Audiology Newsletter, and Website and all other Academy publications and communications regardless of medium. Other duties as assigned by the President. Term of Office: Two years.

Coupled with dynamic resources of the executive assistants, serving as a board member may be the most rewarding professionally related job you will ever experience. Three, one day, weekend, face to face board meetings and one telephone-conference call constitute the annual calendar. Travel expenses and hotel costs are reimbursed by the board for the attendance of these meetings. Payment for your efforts comes in the form of self fulfillment, knowing that you have contributed to the future of your profession and taken the step to not be a passive participant, but an active mover and shaker!

Once you have decided on the office you would like to seek, five voting FLAA members must submit a signed request for your nomination to Dr. Donna Scheitler, Chair of the Nominating Committee. This request is accompanied by the nominee's signed statement of willingness to serve and accompanied by the nominee's pertinent vita. Nominations will close May 15, 2007. Please forward all nominations to Dr. Donna Scheitler at Donna.Scheitler22@va.gov

Submitted by Janet Shelfer, Au.D.
President, 2005
Secretary 2007 - 2008

**FLAA is on the web at
www.floridaudiology.org**



American Academy of Audiology Inc.
Political Action Committee (PAC)
11730 Plaza America Drive, Suite 300
Reston, VA 20190
1-800-222-2336 - FAX 703-790-8631

Message from the PAC Advisory Board Chair:

As an audiologist, you understand first hand the issues that are important to our profession. Your contribution to the American Academy of Audiology Political Action Committee (PAC) will ensure that your voice is heard in Washington by enabling the PAC to support pro-audiology legislators who share your concerns. As the only political action committee that exclusively represents a broad spectrum of audiologists, the effectiveness of the PAC is dependent solely on your support. Make a commitment to participate in the politico process today through your generous contribution to the PAC!

Sincerely,

Richard E. Gans, Ph.D., FAAA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: *Academy members contributing to the American Academy of Audiology, Inc. PAC should know and understand.*

PURPOSE OF THE PACE: The purpose of the American Academy of Audiology, Inc. Political Action Committee (PAC) is to support policy goals important to audiologists and the practice of audiology through the support of candidates for elective office, promote better understanding among elected officials of the unique and important role of audiology in the delivery of high quality health care to patients and to assist audiologists and others in organizing themselves for effective political action.

Federal law prohibits the use of Academy Members' dues to pay for political activities. Therefore, the PAC is funded through voluntary individual contributions from Academy members.

Contributions are entirely Voluntary and Personal. The Academy is prohibited from favoring members who give, or disfavoring members who do not give. Additionally, the Academy cannot favor or disfavor those who give more over those who give less.

Corporate contributions are prohibited. No corporate checks or corporate credit cards can be accepted. PAC contributions are not tax deductible.

For members who contribute more than \$200 per calendar year, the Academy PAC is required to report the name, address, occupation and name of the employer. NOTE: if you contribute over \$200, please complete this form and return it with your PAC contribution. You may also make a donation online by visiting the Academy website at: <http://webportal.audiology.org/Custom/PACContributions.aspx>.

Name _____ Title _____
Organization/Company _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____

*Paid for and authorized by the American Academy of Audiology Inc. PAC.
Under the guidance of the Federal Elections Commission, AAA, Inc. PAC files regular reports detailing
the financial activities of the PAC.*

Teaching Audiology in Malaysia.... Sharing Experiences

by Richard Saul, Ph.D., Nova Southeastern University

When I first arrived in Kuala Lumpur, the largest city in Malaysia, I was struck by a vibrant urban landscape and broad cultural diversity. A glance at one of the morning newspapers, *The New Straits Times*, provided examples of some of the day's main themes: the political difficulties between Malaysia and Singapore about building a new bridge connecting the two neighbors, and balancing relationships among the various Malaysian ethnic groups including Malays and other indigenous peoples, Chinese, and Indians. Ah, politics. As anywhere in the world! Malaysia is a nation in the germinal stages of increasing global political and economic power.

Malaysia is also a nation of contrasts. Owing in large part to its central location on major maritime trade routes, peoples from all over Asia migrated to this well endowed land with a parliamentary form of government and strong economy. The result: a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society bringing together Malay cultures with ethnic groups primarily from China and India. Not that this nation has been free of cultural and ethnic difficulties during periods of change and development but, for the most part, modern Malaysia is considered a country of relative harmony. Surrounding countries include Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, and Indonesia. The predominant religion is Muslim, followed by Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Confucianist/Taoist.

When I was invited by the National University of Malaysia (University Kebangsaan, UKM) to teach, and help with program development in auditory processing, I was both excited and curious. Although I travel regularly to Europe to teach for Nova Southeastern University's Au.D London program, this was my first foray into Asian audiology. The



Dr. Saul with third year audiology students



UKM Audiology Clinic, Kuala Lumpur



Class taking a break

opportunity to work in Southeast Asia would prove to deepen my understanding of Asian and Global healthcare in general, and Malaysian audiological science and practice in particular—and also, hopefully, to leave a small personal mark on the students in the UKM audiology program. I subsequently joined the faculty of Allied Health as visiting professor of audiology for the fall semester, 2006.

There are currently three university programs in Malaysia offering professional audiology training: University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), where I was based, University Sains Malaysia (USM), and University Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM). Interestingly, the *London Times* 2006 Rankings of the World's top universities ranked UKM 185th. (For comparison, The University of Minnesota—was ranked 187th); Quite an achievement!

Oh, yes—Harvard was ranked #1 and Cambridge #2 (Don't shoot the messenger!).

UKM, the National University of Malaysia, offers a wide range of academic programs including allied health, medicine, business, education, engineering, Islamic studies, law, social science, information technology, and science and technology. Allied Health, in particular, offers degree programs ranging from audiology and speech sciences to biomedicine, pharmacy, optometry, physiotherapy, nutrition, and environmental science. The UKM Audiology clinics are located at the medical campus on the north side of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's largest city (the main academic campus is located about 50 miles to the south in Bangi).

MALAYSIA, Continued on page 16

Medical and allied health degree programs in Malaysia are at the undergraduate level—four or five years leading to a B.A. or B.S. Medical training, for example, is a five year undergraduate program with opportunity for a Master's level specialty area. Audiology professional training is a four year Bachelor's level program (similar to the B.A. professional degree in Great Britain). At UKM, the first two years of professional audiology training include anatomy and physiology, acoustics, speech and hearing science, basic electronics, basic audiology, and clinical observation. The second two years include electrophysiology, hearing aids, advanced diagnostics, aural rehabilitation, and clinical placements. The university has a wide range audiology faculty whose doctoral level training was obtained primarily from university programs in Great Britain, The U.S., and Australia.

Malaysia has a well developed healthcare system. The Ministry of Health focuses on providing services in rural communities, where 44% of the 25 million Malaysian residents reside. There is an extensive network of rural health clinics providing rural residents with access to modern healthcare facilities. Mobile clinical teams, and telemedicine, provide healthcare to remote areas. However, there remain significant differences in health status between urban and rural populations, as several services are restricted primarily to urban settings. Wide range diagnostic audiology (services are provided in 26 public hospitals), rehabilitation, and newborn screening, are found in urban settings.

It was so interesting teaching in English to non-native English speaking students. What a marvelous experience trying to communicate technical language effectively. There are however, distinct challenges. It is so important

to be direct, not overly colloquial, and to pace your lecture. Actually, trying to communicate clearly--helps you think more clearly! The official language is Malay. Although,

the use of English declined in education in the 1980s in favor of Malay, English increased with the country's plan for further globalization. Actually, English is, in large part, the language of instruction in many academic areas such as math, science, and health. Students in audiology have basic English proficiency. Many instructors visit from Australia, Britain, and the U.S.



Dr. Saul's ABR Class

In my day to day experience in the working Kuala Lumpur neighborhood in which I lived (away from the University), there was little English proficiency; so, some basic Malay vocabulary is quite helpful. Further away, along the East Coast, even less English is spoken.

During my opportunities to provide in-service and seminar work in auditory processing disorders with university faculty and clinical staff, I learned that interest in this clinical area was very high. Clearly, the staff believed that this was an important component in audiology practice. At this point, resources are understandably centered on acute care and peripheral hearing deficits.



Students preparing for class

Working abroad is exciting and rewarding. We also represent our nation. I believe that the best way to achieve cross-cultural understanding is through direct and honest conversations, listening openly, showing respect, and revealing your good humor. There are many opportunities to work abroad—sharing knowledge leads to new ways for global understanding (and maybe, even greater audiology awareness).



Kuala Lumpur Hospital

The Eleventh Annual Florida Academy of Audiology Convention August 30 - September 1, 2007 - The Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Spa St. Petersburg, FL

Dear Colleagues,

Mark your calendars for the 2007 FLAA 11th Annual Convention, August 30, 31 and September 1st at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Spa in St. Petersburg. This year we are planning another exciting and instructional convention for you. So far I have been able to recruit some outstanding speakers and researchers for our 11th convention. We also have received a few proposals that are being evaluated by our committee members. The deadline for paper submission is approaching quickly. This year's deadline has been set to March 15th. We encourage you to consider submitting a proposal for presentation. You can share your clinical findings as case presentations or you may want to share your experience with difficult to fit patients, or challenges that you may have had in patient management. If you are doing research we would like to hear about your findings and research contributions. As always the FLAA scientific committee will work hard to select the best of the best for this year's convention. A variety of different topics will be included in this upcoming convention. We are planning scientific sessions based on the input that we have gathered from the evaluation forms that you competed in the last convention in Orlando. Many aspects of hearing and balance from basic sciences to complicated clinical cases will be discussed by our proficient and prominent speakers. This year again we have made plans to make sure that we will hear and learn about the many diverse areas of audiology. Some of the new topics will include cochlear implants, auditory processing disorders, tinnitus management, intra-operative monitoring, advanced hearing aid technology, and hands on practice. I will have detailed news and information for you in the next issue of advocate.



Ali Danesh, Ph.D.
FLAA VP Education

I would like to personally invite you to our 11th convention in St Petersburg. We have had very successful conventions in the past. Let's make this one the greatest convention ever.

Sincerely,

Ali A. Danesh, Ph.D.
VP of Education
Florida Academy of Audiology

**DON'T FORGET TO
SUPPORT FLORIDA
CANDIDATES FOR THE
AAA BOARD; THEY CAN
WORK FOR YOU!!**



Stately entrance to the Elegant Vinoy Resort



Call for Papers

Florida Academy of Audiology 2007 Convention
August 30, 31 and September 1, 2007
The Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club
St. Petersburg, Florida

Participate as a guest speaker during our 2007 annual convention! We are accepting proposals for a variety of topics as diverse as our membership.

(Proposals submitted to the academy should not be for the promotion of specific commercial products.)

Title of Presentation: _____

Presenter Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Length of Presentation: _____

Presentation Style: ☐ Classroom ☐ Round Table ☐ Hands-on Workshop

Audiovisual Needs: ☐ LCD projector ☐ Slide Projector ☐ Other

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED FORM, WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

☐ A brief abstract (100 words). This will be used to prepare a description of your presentation.

☐ A brief biographical sketch of the presenter(s). This will be used to introduce the presenter.

☐ Learning outcomes for the presentation. These should NOT use the words "learn" or "understand" since these cannot be quantified.

Submissions can be made via email or by mailing the above material, with this form, to the address below in Microsoft Word format. Mail submissions may be in 3.5 floppy disk or CD format.

Deadline for Submission is March 15, 2007

Florida Academy of Audiology
Call For Papers 2007
14864 Enclave Lakes Dr. #T-1
Delray Beach, FL 33484
adanesh@floridaaudiology.org

National Organizations are necessary, however, only

The Florida Academy of Audiology can appropriately address Florida issues

Thank you to all of our members of 2006, your membership fee helped your audiology profession through some great legislative accomplishments:

- ✓ Modified the licensure requirements to require a doctoral degree for licensure as an audiologist beginning in 2007.
- ✓ Allowed for licensure by endorsement of national certification from the ASHA or *American Board of Audiology*
- ✓ Changed the educational qualifications of an audiology assistant from requiring a Bachelor's Degree to having earned "...a high-school diploma or its equivalent..." and being directly trained and supervised by a licensed audiologist; thus, opening the door for more opportunities while keeping the management of the program directly under the employing audiologist.

Some of the goals for 2007:

- ✓ Florida Medicaid HA Benefits: FLAA will be petitioning Medicaid to update fee schedule since last update was 19983.
- ✓ Direct Access: FLAA will continue our efforts to lobby for direct access to audiology at the state and national level.

Your membership is important to all Florida audiologists. Without your support, FLAA would be unable to provide the continued leadership this group has increasingly demonstrated year after year. Your membership also enables you to: 1) receive the quarterly Audiology Advocate - a well rounded resource of current events that affect how you practice and flourish in your professional career; 2) receive a discount off the annual convention registration fee held in August 2007 - the best convention any state has to offer! 3) have a respectable and knowledgeable resource to address your questions and concerns, and, particularly, support favorable legislative efforts.

Connect a Colleague in FLAA!

NEW MEMBERS WANTED - Introducing our new Connect a Colleague program! From January 10 through May 1, 2007, simply refer a colleague as a new member* and receive a \$50.00 coupon towards the convention registration fee held August 30 - September 1, 2007, in St. Petersburg, Florida. Referral information is requested on the new 2007 Membership Registration Form. Please contact Suzanne Younker at 800-323-3277 ext. 111 with any questions. *Note: Applicable for new members or prior members who have had lapsed membership for at least 2 years and are not current students qualifying for student rates.

2007 Florida Academy of Audiology New Member Application

Please circle:

FELLOW

ASSOCIATE

Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.: _____

Organization: _____ Position: _____

Please check preferred address: ☐ Home ☐ Business

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Preferred Phone (*Home or Business*): (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____ County: _____

IMPORTANT - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Last Degree Earned: _____

DEGREE

INSTITUTION

CITY & STATE

YEAR

Check all organizations in which you hold an active membership:

☐ AAA ☐ ASHA ☐ ADA ☐ FLASHA ☐ OTHER: _____

I certify, as a FELLOW member, my Florida State License number is AY- _____.

My Florida state audiology license is current and in good standing.

Please check here____ if you DO NOT wish to be included in the 2007 FLAA Membership Directory.

By signing the application, the member agrees to abide fully with the Florida Academy of Audiology Code of Ethics, which can be viewed on the Academy's web site at www.floridaaudiology.org

APPLICANT SIGNATURE (application will not be processed without it)

Please make checks payable to:

FLAA

V.P. for Membership Services

14864 Enclave Lakes Dr. #T-1

Delray Beach, FL 33484

For your application to be processed YOU MUST include:

- Completed membership application.
- Copy of current State Audiology License (Fellows only).
- Payment of \$150.00 (Payable to FLAA)

2007 FLAA Annual Dues

January 1 – December 31 \$ 150.00

Total Enclosed \$150.00

Coast to Coast - Connect a Colleague!

In order for FLAA to adequately meet the needs of all Florida audiologists, we need more Florida audiologists in FLAA! Connect a Colleague Program is an optional membership program that allows current members to connect **current nonmembers** to FLAA. The referring member will receive \$25.00 rebate coupon off their 2007 convention registration.

I was connected to FLAA by my esteemed colleague: _____

Current Member's Name

Payment by Credit Card:

Credit Card Type – VISA Mastercard American Express (please circle one)

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

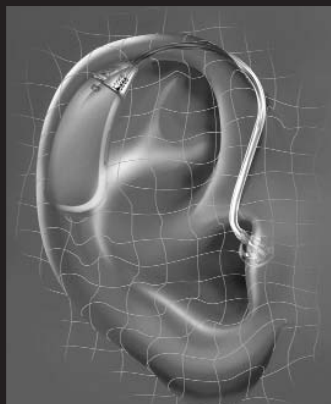
Name on Card _____ V-Code (digits on back of card) _____

Date _____ Authorized Signature _____



Nice curves

Nice selection



ACURIS™ Life



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Siemens is excited to introduce the Life family of open ear BTEs. Small and sleek, Life BTEs are designed with advanced digital sound processing to facilitate a more natural sound while eliminating or reducing the bothersome occlusion effect. With no earhook needed or visible controls, patients can be tested and fit in one appointment – getting them back to the world of hearing faster and more comfortably. **For more information, call (800) 766-4500 or visit www.usa.siemens.com/hearing.**

Siemens Hearing Instruments proudly supports the
Florida Academy of Audiology in its efforts
to improve all aspects of hearing health care.

Siemens Hearing Instruments
Better hearing is better living.

SIEMENS



FLORIDA ACADEMY
OF AUDIOLOGY

Florida Academy of Audiology 2007 Student Member Application

First Name_____ Last Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____ Email_____

University Attending_____

Anticipated Graduation Date_____

**You may mail completed
membership application to:**

FLAA Membership
14864 Enclave Lakes Dr. #T-1
Delray Beach, FL 33484

The Florida Academy of Audiology grants **FREE Membership** to unlicensed students enrolled in Florida Universities pursuing their Audiology degree. A Student Membership Application must be filled out every year for the membership to be considered active. Upon graduation, students that renew their membership as a Fellow Member, will have their application fee waived.

Questions? ACADEMY Phone is (866) 353-FLAA, Fax: (707) 220-2861
E-mail: Margie Walden, Executive Director – mwalden@floridaaudiology.org

FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR FLAA

AmSouth Bank has a program to donate funds to non-profit organizations such as FLAA. We urge all of you to consider participating in this program. Not only will it benefit you personally, but it will also be a way for each of you to raise money for our organization to continue providing high quality continuing education opportunities. AmSouth is the bank that FLAA uses for all accounts.

Take advantage of the AmSouth RelationshipPlus Checking account with only a \$50.00 opening deposit. If you deposit \$100.00 to open the account, you will immediately receive a \$30.00 deposit from AmSouth into your new account. This checking account provides free checks, a free Platinum check card and other benefits as well. You are only required to keep the account open for 6 months and make one transaction/month. AmSouth would like us to experience their services. All you need is to be a member of FLAA or be referred by a member a FLAA, so even your family members can open accounts. AmSouth then donates \$25.00 to FLAA for each new account that is opened.

AmSouth will be merging soon with Regions Bank and there are AmSouth or Regions Banks in all area of Florida so you will have easy local bank access once your new account is established.

If you are interested in receiving more information or in opening an account, please contact me first. I will help you set this up. Just contact me by email at dshimon@phhp.ufl.edu or call me at (352) 273-5303.

-Debra Shimon, AuD
FLAA Treasurer



*Don't miss the
11th Annual
FLAA Convention
August 30, 31 &
September 1, 2007
At the Renaissance Vinoy
Resort and Golf Club,
St. Petersburg, FL.*



FLORIDA ACADEMY
OF AUDIOLOGY

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Delray Beach, FL 33484

