

Scott Haug Foundation Memorial Keynote Speaker**Rachel Burns**

Rachael captured the title of Miss Texas International 2014 at the annual Miss Texas International Pageant held at the Granville Arts Center in Dallas, Texas on March 16, 2014. Her platform is "Conquer. Live. Repeat. Overcoming obstacles and disabilities one day at a time."

Rachael is a native Texan who was born in Dallas and has lived in various cities across Texas including Fort Worth, Denton, Irving, Garland, and Round Rock. She previously taught 4th grade, and is currently a Marketing Specialist for North Hills ENT. She also performs with the Festival Ballet of North Central Texas, teaches ballet classes, and runs a makeup and pageant coaching business called Royalty by Rachael. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance from the University of North Texas and hopes to eventually finish her second Bachelor of Science in Nutrition. Although she thoroughly enjoys teaching and marketing, she hopes to one day go to medical school and be a doctor or physician assistant. In the meantime, Rachael enjoys speaking

across the state of Texas about her platform encouraging others to overcome hurdles in their lives. For Rachael, this is not just a platform but the motto by which she lives her life. "We can either choose to let these things hold us back or allow them to propel us forward and make us stronger." Rachael has a severe hearing loss and tinnitus from having meningitis as a baby, so her life has been full of these hurdles. "I am not part of the deaf community, because I don't know how to sign fluently, and I oftentimes feel ostracized from the hearing community, because there are days when I just can't hear anything. I grew up in a hearing family, and they are incredibly supportive, but it is difficult sometimes being in the middle of two worlds. I don't look or sound like there is anything wrong with me, so people will think I am ignoring them and being rude. I'm not! I just can't hear them!"

Rachael wants others to understand that we all have struggles. Whether a person is battling a disease, abuse, or an addiction, obstacles are constantly thrown our way. "Conquer. Live. Repeat." is a campaign that Rachael designed to help those struggling with obstacles and disabilities by bringing awareness to the fact that we all have struggles in life. "Our purpose on Earth is to help one another become happy and successful despite our hardships. It is wrong to make assumptions about others in any situation when you never know what is going on in a person's life. People who have disabilities aren't always obvious." Her mission is to inspire a much more loving and understanding world and to encourage everyone to conquer your challenges so that you can live your life to the fullest, and repeat that process whenever necessary. Everyone's process is different, and she wants to be able to help point those who are struggling in the right direction.

Rachael has firsthand experience with seeing her platform in action in the community as well as at the low-income school where she used to teach. "These children have so many issues that many others don't have to worry about. They come from very broken homes or are completely homeless, and some do not even have food unless they are at school. I challenge these kids to take their education very seriously so that they can change their situation someday and provide a wonderful life for themselves. They are so fortunate to live in a country of so many opportunities. They can conquer their situations if they work hard and believe that they deserve a great life."

Rachael's personal experiences with child abuse, heart disease, and hearing loss make her someone who appreciates life and has a genuine love for people. She is an ambassador for three national organizations: The Hearing Health Foundation, American Heart Association, and Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children. For more information about her platform, please visit www.ConquerLiveRepeat.org

Together, we can overcome obstacles and disabilities one day at a time!

Amy M. Amlani, Ph.D.

Amy M. Amlani, PhD, is Professor and Department Chairperson, Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, in the consortium program between the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). Dr. Amlani holds the B.A. degree in Communication Disorders from the University of the Pacific, the M.S. degree in Audiology from Purdue University, and the Ph.D. degree in Audiology/Psychoacoustics (minor in Marketing and Supply Chain Management) from Michigan State University. Dr. Amlani is the director of the UAMS/UALR Hearing Aid Technologies Laboratory (HATLab), a research laboratory that is funded primarily from extramural grants and corporate sponsors. Dr. Amlani is a prolific contributor within the audiology community with 60+ national and international presentations, 40+ published articles, two textbook chapters, and the co-author of a textbook. Dr. Amlani's research interests



include the influence of hearing aid technology on speech and music, auditory plasticity in listeners with hearing loss and dementia, hearing conservation for musicians, and room acoustics. In addition, Dr. Amlani is a preeminent researcher in the areas of: (1) economic and marketing trends within audiology, particularly with respect to evolving/disruptive technologies (smartphone-based applications, personal sound amplifiers/hearables), and (2) hearing conservation strategies for musicians and music educators.



Matthew Barker, Au.D.

Matthew Barker is an audiologist with a special interest in auditory processing, beginning with his AuD research project investigating assessment methods. He is now the founder and director of Acoustic Pioneer, Ltd. Through this company, he has been developing and performing academic review through peer-reviewed research of newly developed tools for use by professionals (both audiologists and speech-language pathologists) to improve testing and treatment options for patients who are presenting with difficulties with auditory processing. He has presented internationally on the topic and on the developments of Acoustic Pioneer, Ltd. The developments began in New Zealand and has grown to be available in 10 different countries.

Lisa Christensen, Au.D.

Lisa Christensen is the Audiology Program Manager at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Christensen has devoted a large amount of her professional career to bone anchored hearing devices in children. Her research in this area has led to several peer reviewed publications and lectures around the world on this topic. Her other interests include pediatric diagnostics and amplification, and acquired hearing loss in children and adults. Dr. Christensen was a participant in the Inaugural Jerger Future Leaders of Audiology Conference (JFLAC) in 2008 which is sponsored by the American Academy of Audiology. Dr. Christensen now serves as Chair of JFLAC where she helps other midcareer audiologists become advocates and leaders for the profession of audiology. Throughout her career, Dr. Christensen has served on numerous committees for AAA and has been involved in several state academies. In 2014, she was awarded the AAA State Leaders Active Advocate of the Year. Dr. Christensen currently serves on the Board of Directors for the American Academy of Audiology.



Richard "Dick" Danielson, Ph.D.

Dr. Danielson is an Associate Professor at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, with dual appointments in the Department of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery and in the Center for Space Medicine. Since 2003, he has been the Manager for Audiology and Hearing Conservation at NASA-Johnson Space Center.

Robert M. DiSogra, Au.D.

Robert M. DiSogra, Au.D, is an independent audiology consultant in Millstone Twp., NJ. He had been in private practice for 30 years in Freehold, NJ. (Audiology Associates of Freehold, PC) prior to selling his practice in 2015. He received his Doctor of Audiology degree in 2003 from the Osborne College of Audiology at Salus University in Elkins Park, PA. He holds a Masters Degree in Audiology from Hofstra University and a Bachelor's Degree in Speech Education from St. John's University. Dr. DiSogra developed and taught the Pharmacology/Ototoxicity distance learning course at Salus University from 2000-2005. He is now an adjunct lecturer at Salus. He has also taught doctoral level/graduate and undergraduate Audiology courses at Salus University, St. John's University NY), Rutgers University and Kean University (NJ). He continues to lecture nationally and internationally on pharmaceutical and nutraceuticals for hearing loss, adverse drug reactions and patient management and has several book chapters to his credit. His latest book (2015) is an extensive review of over 50 over-the-counter tinnitus relief products. Dr. DiSogra was recognized as the 2013 Alumnus of the Year from Salus University and also serves as Chairperson of the Osborne College of Audiology Advisory Board at Salus University. Dr. DiSogra is a US Navy veteran and served during the Viet Nam era.



Doug Dittfurth, M.Ed

Doug Dittfurth's career in the field of deafness/hearing loss has spanned over 40 years. Since 2013, he has been the Coordinator of the state's newborn hearing screening program with the Department of State Health Services.

**Karen Ditty, Au.D.**

Dr. Karen Ditty is a pediatric audiologist with extensive experience and expertise in early hearing detection and intervention programming. She has been a leading advocate for universal newborn hearing screening and is currently actively working to enact legislation in Texas requiring insurance coverage of hearing aids for infants and children.

Brian Francis

Brian Francis joined the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) as the Deputy Executive Director on October 18, 1999 and is now the Executive Director of TDLR. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation oversees more than 650,000 licensees in 32 different programs including boxing, driver's training, electricians, athletic trainers, weather modification, property tax consultants, speech-language pathologists and audiologists, cosmetology, and towing. Brian is primarily responsible for leading the day to day operations of the agency's Compliance, Customer Service, Education and Examination, Enforcement, Field Operations, Financial Services, Information Technology, and Licensing divisions. Brian was recently appointed Executive Director by the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation effective September 1, 2016. Prior to joining TDLR, Brian served as the Assistant Administrator of the Texas Real Estate Commission and as a Senior Securities Analyst at the State Securities Board. He started his more than 27 years of public service at the Texas Savings and Loan Department. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University) with a major in Finance and his Master of Business Administration from St. Edward's University with a concentration in Financial Management. Brian is a full-time public servant and part-time poet and writer.

**Tori Gustafson, Au.D.**

Tori Gustafson, Au.D. is an Associate Professor at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. She has taught auditory processing disorders on the graduate level for over 10 years. Her research has been in auditory processing disorders and their correlation to speech-language difficulties. In addition, she supervises students providing clinical service in testing for auditory processing disorders.

J. Walter Kutz Jr., MD

J. Walter Kutz Jr., MD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. After completing Otolaryngology residency training at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, he completed a two-year fellowship in Otology and Neurotology at the House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles. Dr. Kutz has a particular interest in the medical education. He was awarded the Chief Resident Appreciation Award for Outstanding Contribution and Leadership. He is also the fellowship director for the UTSW Medical Center Department of Otolaryngology Neurotology Fellowship and the Associate Residency Director for the Department of Otolaryngology at UTSW. Dr. Kutz is active in clinical research with specific interests in acoustic neuroma outcomes, bone anchored hearing aids, cochlear implantation, and cerebrospinal fluid fistulas of the temporal bone. He has published over 30 peer-reviewed manuscripts and has written multiple book chapters.



SPEAKER LINE-UP



Colleen Le Prell, Ph.D.

Dr. Colleen Le Prell is a Professor and Head of the Audiology doctoral program at UTD. Dr. Le Prell has received funding from the NIH, DoD, industry, and multiple foundations. She has published more than 40 peer-reviewed articles and edited three books. She currently serves as an Associate Editor for the International Journal of Audiology, and the President-Elect for the National Hearing Conservation Association.

Matthew Lyon, M.A.

Mr. Lyon is a Board Certified Audiologist who owns private practices in El Paso, Texas as well as Alamogordo and Las Cruces, New Mexico. He has served in various governmental and audiology association capacities, including: chair of the (Texas) State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and President of the Texas Academy of Audiology. He currently serves as the Governmental Liaison for the Texas Academy of Audiology.



Steve Madix

Steve Madix is an Associate Professor of Audiology at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA. Dr. Madix has been very active in Audiology advocacy both at the state and national level. He is the founding President of LAA and serves on many AAA committees. Dr. Madix was a participant in the 2014 Jerger Future Leaders of Audiology Conference (JFLAC) which is sponsored by the American Academy of Audiology. His other professional interests include hearing screenings and the use of technology with hearing screenings and advocacy of the hearing profession.

Vinaya Manchaiah, Au.D.

Vinaya Manchaiah is the Jo Mayo Endowed Professor at the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX.



Jeffrey Martin, Ph.D.

Jeffrey Martin, Ph.D. is the Division Head of Audiology at the UT Dallas Callier Center for Communication Disorders. Dr. Martin manages audiology services for children and adults with hearing impairment. Dr. Martin also serves as a Clinical Associate Professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at UTD where he conducts research on the behavioral and electrophysiological study of central mechanisms in hearing. Clinical applications of his research revolve around the diagnostic evaluation of individuals with CAPD.

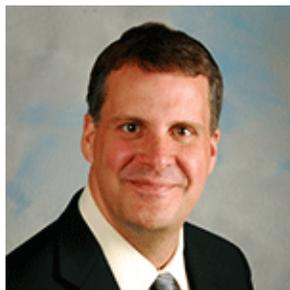
Scott Marquardt, Au.D.

Scott Marquardt, Au.D. is the current TAA President. He is the owner of Hearing with Clarity and has 22 years of clinic experience.



Cristen Plummer, Au.D.

Dr. Plummer is a Board Certified Audiologist who works in a private practice in Austin, Texas. She has served as the President of the Texas Academy of Audiology and currently serves as an advisory board member for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

**Todd A. Ricketts, Ph.D.**

Todd A. Ricketts, Ph.D., CCC-A, is a Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center, and the Director of the Dan Maddox Hearing Aid Research Laboratory. He has published more than 100 articles and book chapters and provided over 300 presentations both nationally and internationally. He continues to pursue a very active federally and industry funded research program studying various aspects of hearing, hearing aids and cochlear implants. He was named a Fellow of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association in 2006 and received an editor's award from the American Journal of Audiology in 2008. He is a past editor-in-chief of the quarterly journal Trends in Amplification and the past chair of the Vanderbilt Institutional Review Board. He is a current associate editor for the Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research and currently serves on the board of directors of the American Academy of Audiology.

Ross Roeser, Ph.D.

Ross J. Roeser is the Lois and Howard Wolf Professor in Pediatric Audiology at the University of Texas at Dallas, Callier Center for Communication Disorders, Dallas, TX.

**Erin C. Schafer, Ph.D.**

Erin C. Schafer, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology at the University of North Texas. Dr. Schafer teaches courses and publishes peer-reviewed research on the assessment and (re)habilitation of adults and children with hearing loss or auditory disorders. She also conducts research to examine benefits of hearing aid, cochlear implant, and remote-microphone technologies. She currently serves as the Editor of the Journal of Educational Audiology, supervises an auditory processing clinic, and has worked as an educational audiologist.

Angela Shoup, Ph.D.

Angela Shoup, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center where she also serves as Director of the Division of Communicative and Vestibular Disorders. Dr. Shoup received her Ph.D. in Human Development and Communication Disorders from the University of Texas at Dallas. In her current position, Dr. Shoup is affiliated with UT Southwestern clinics, Parkland Hospital and Children's Health facilities. Dr. Shoup has published articles and textbook chapters on audiologic procedures and implantable hearing aids. She has been an invited speaker at national and international meetings. She previously served as President of the Texas Academy of Audiology, Chair of the Ethical Practices Committee for the American Academy of Audiology, and Chair of the American Academy of Audiology Foundation Board of Trustees.





Susie Tiggs, M.Ed.

Susie Tiggs is the Statewide Lead for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services in Texas. As the Statewide Lead she provides leadership, professional development, consultation, and technical assistance to assist families and school districts with meeting the unique needs of infants, toddlers, and students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Susie has worked in the fields of Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visual Impairments, Deaf blindness, and Assistive Technology for more than 27 years.

Robert Tysoe

Bob Tysoe is the Marketing Consultant & Trainer for Hearing Healthcare Marketing Company. He has a history of strong success in Marketing and Sales in the health care industry. He has twenty-five years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry and medical device sales; as well as over ten years of highly successful results in providing physician marketing training programs for the audiology industry. Bob currently consults for hearing aid manufacturers, audiology, ENT clinics, and hearing health specialists in the U.S. and abroad. Bob creates innovative marketing education programs, leads business development projects, and provides leadership in the development of physician marketing strategies that enhance reputations and brands, and allow audiology providers to increase their market share and profitability.



Kelly A. Wilson, M.S.

Kelly A. Wilson M.S., CCC-SLP, is a speech-language pathologist and faculty associate at the UT Dallas Callier Center for Communication Disorders. Prior to joining the Callier staff, Ms. Wilson worked as a speech-language pathologist in the public schools for 7 years. Ms. Wilson's clinical focus is on pediatric language disorders and CAPD.

Ian Windmill, Ph.D.

Dr. Windmill serves as the Clinical Director of Audiology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and an adjunct faculty member of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Windmill is a Fellow of the American Academy of Audiology and currently serves as President-elect. His interest areas include the diagnosis of hearing disorders, hearing health policy, and education of hearing health professionals.

