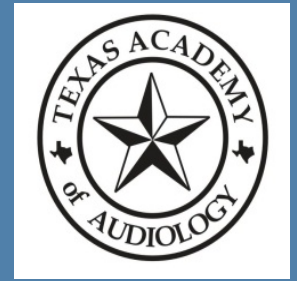


2017: San MARVELous Super HEARoes!



**Our 3rd Annual
TAA / Scott Haug Foundation
Dinner/Dance will be held Friday night
with a costume contest.**

Sneak Peek at Speakers:

- Dr. Jackie Clark, AAA President: State of the Union Address
- 2 Hours on Ethics of Humanitarian Programs
- Digital Marketing...What You Need to Know About Having a Successful Website
- Insurance Reimbursement: Unbundling
- Practice Management
- Hot Topics: TDLR, Medicaid, Legislation Concerns and Successes in Audiology....It's a Busy Year!
- OTC Bill and What it Means for the Future
- Entire Pediatric/Educational Audiology 2 Day Tract
- Audiology In Transition: A Lot of Moving Parts

And much more.....



**If You Are Not a Member of Texas
Academy of Audiology**

JOIN NOW

**To show your support and to save on
conference registration.**

Conference Registration will open in June

Where: Embassy Suites by Hilton
Conference Center and Spa
1001 E. McCarty Lane, San Marcos, TX 78666

Go to www.texasaudiology.org and click on the link to book your room now to get the special TAA room rate of \$154 before the room block is full.

Caring About Our Profession

By Chris Araj, Au.D. 2017 TAA President

Are you reading this in your office? At home? In between seeing patients? In 2011 I remember receiving my first TAA Newsletter and feeling connected to all the others in my state that chose this great profession. I was a new graduate and didn't know many other audiologists since I had gone to school out of state. I became involved in TAA and now I'm honored to write the President's message in this year's edition!

*This newsletter not only goes out to TAA members but to all **1278** licensed audiologists in Texas. I wish that there wasn't a distinction though. I wish that every Texas audiologist was a TAA member. TAA is the professional home for audiologists in Texas and is the strongest voice for audiologists in the state.*

TAA is always staying on top of current legislation and this year, quite literally, our license was at risk! In February 2017, HB 1684 was introduced by Rep. Isaac which sought to abolish licensing for audiologists and speech-language pathologists in the state of Texas. Overnight Rep. Isaac received hundreds of phone calls, letters, and Facebook posts from Texas professionals about why this was a bad idea and he announced that he would no longer be pursuing this bill. This is the effect that our grassroots efforts can have!

The people that care most about audiology in Texas are Texas audiologists! We have to stand up for ourselves in our own state. Our national organizations are providing support at a national level, but it's TAA that's providing support at a state level!

We are the strongest voice for audiologists in our state but we need everyone's support to be even stronger, so please join us! Want to get involved but not sure where to start?

Email me at: DrAraj@PearlandHearingAids.com

TAA Board of Directors:

Interested in serving on the TAA Board?

Do you have a passion for Audiology?

Now is the time!

Several TAA Board of Director positions will be available, starting in 2018. Please email your interest to Dr. Scott Marquardt, TAA Past President. Nominees will be considered through July 31, 2017. Nominees will be publicly announced on August 1, 2017. Nominees to The Board will be approved through formal vote at the TAA Business Meeting held during the 2017 TAA Conference in San Marcos in October.

Scott Marquardt, AuD

TAA Past President

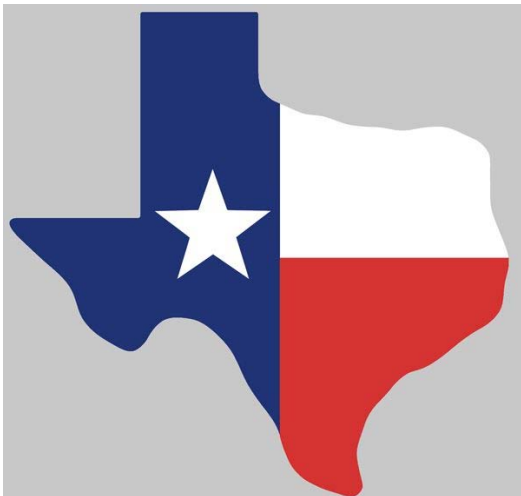
smarquardt@hearingwithclarity.com

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

BY: ROBERT HERRING, VP OF
MEMBERSHIP

2017 has been busier than ever for TAA as we tackle important legislative actions that have potentially serious effects on audiologists in Texas. This year more than ever we need your continued support. More importantly, we need you to not only renew your TAA membership, but also personally encourage your colleagues to join.

There is currently a discount for first time members so now is the time to get involved. Membership is simple, just go to www.texasaudiology.org to get signed up! We have the best state organization because of our membership and we can do better. Share this newsletter today with your audiologist friends and coworkers.



TAA Goes to the Texas Science and Engineering Fair

by Kimberly DeBona, Au.D., VP Public Relations

TAA again participated in the Texas Science and Engineering Fair on April 1, 2017 at the Henry B Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. Three of our members, Deborah Almarez, Au.D., Michelle Tejada, Au.D. and myself served as special award judges for the fair. With a lot of innovative and informative entries, we reviewed projects related to hearing and sound in both junior and senior high categories. We selected 4 winners who received monetary prizes and a certificate from TAA.



Please show your caring with your membership. Don't put this off, join today or re-up your membership at <http://texasaudiology.org/join.php>

For **ONLY \$95**, it's the best investment you can make
for yourself and your profession!

We need you to make a difference!

How Has Audiology Changed?

by Shawna Jackson, Au.D., VP Professional issues

Every reader and member, please ask yourself this question: "How has the Audiology profession changed since I started?" Some changes are inevitable, and recent changes in our profession are happening with unusually strong pace. Some of these changes are positive including increased insurance coverage for hearing aids and innovative technologies for rehabilitation and diagnostic assessment. Others can be seen as threatening to the very way we practice. Our reaction to these changes can shape Audiology's future forever. In early February, legislation was introduced seeking to abolish licensing for Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Your Texas Academy of Audiology board and lobbyist immediately disseminated the information through membership and social media channels. Voter's Voice, a Texas Academy of Audiology purchased software, was utilized to help more than 500 constituent letters reach legislative officials within 24 hours sharing opposition of the bill. Thus, the bill has not been moved forward. The professional response to this issue changed the future result, but now we must ask ourselves, what more can we do? How can we continue to promote respect for the profession of Audiology to continue, positively shape the future and deter the negative changes? I suggest this starts in our daily practice. Evaluate the value you offer your patients. Think and honestly evaluate your practice methods. Do your patients see your value? Are you utilizing and sharing just the value of the technology or are you truly sharing the skill you add to that technology? Are you utilizing optimal practice guidelines? If your answer is "absolutely yes!" to these questions, congratulations, but take a deeper look. There are always ways to improve communication with patients, improve clinical skills, and increase our professional value. Making these improvements in daily practice and allowing your patients to clearly see the value in what we do is simply the best way to positively impact the future of Audiology. Texas Academy of Audiology is here to help. We encourage members input on professional development opportunities and look forward to promoting positive change together.



ITEMS WANTED

Our silent auction is always a fun time, but we need your help. We would love to include a larger variety of items, so if you or someone you know has something that you would like to add to the auction please let us know.

NO ITEM IS TOO SMALL!

Contact Chanda Abbott at
Chandaabbott@bayareaaudiology.com



Make your dollars count

PAC DONATIONS

Make your donation online at
texasaudiology.org or
send your donation directly to:

TAA PAC Treasurer David Gordon
7201 Daugherty St., Austin, TX 78757

PAC donations must be made with
personal funds.

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS

Exhibitor Registration opens on May 1st – registration forms will be emailed the last week of April and will also be available on the Texas Academy of Audiology website. If you would like further information, please contact Jennifer Bobo at jbob@oticon.com

Exhibitor Booth Levels Available

Platinum	\$3,000
Gold	\$2,000
Silver	\$1,000
Basic	\$ 500
Non-Profit	\$ 275

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

As many of you know, we could not have a successful conference without our wonderful student volunteers. They provide essential conference support and they get an opportunity to network with students from other schools. Once again we will be offering a discount off registration for student volunteers. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact Cristen Culp at cristenculp70@gmail.com. All student volunteers will be required to provide a minimum of 4 hours of service.

Attendee Conference Registration will Open in June

Please make plans now to attend – Early Bird Deadline will be September 1, 2017

2017 Registration Fees

		Early Bird Registration Before Sept 1 st	Regular Registration Sept 2nd – Oct 5th	On Site Registration
TAA Member	1 Day Only	\$190.00	\$215.00	\$240.00
	Both Days	\$325.00	\$375.00	\$425.00
Non-Member	1 Day Only	\$315.00	\$340.00	\$365.00
	Both Days	\$475.00	\$530.00	\$575.00
TAA Student Member	1 or 2 Days	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$115.00
Non-Member Student	1 or 2 Days	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$140.00

TAA sponsors UTD Student Advocacy Day at the Capitol

by Matt Lyon, Governmental Affairs Liason

On March 20, 2017, students from the University of Texas at Dallas audiology program traveled to the Texas state Capitol, in Austin, to learn about legislative and regulatory processes and to share their support or opposition for several Bills relating to speech and hearing.

The Texas Academy of Audiology was asked to help host this effort. We saw this as an excellent opportunity to support the Student Academy of Audiology chapter at UTD and to educate them about important State legislative and regulatory issues.

The day began at 9:30 am at the office of Brad Shields, our TAA lobbyist. Mr. Shields and Matt Lyon, our legislative liaison, talked with the students about the processes of enacting laws and rules. We also talked about the role of the Federal government, State legislature, and Regulatory agencies. The roles of legislators, lobbyists, and associations were discussed, as well as the differences between national and state associations. The purpose of licensure was explained to them. We talked about the various needs of a professional associations, and where the students may be able to contribute in the future. Many of these students have been volunteers at least one of our past two conferences.

We then met with State representative Rodney Anderson who introduced HB 490. Mr. Anderson took the time to talk about his reason for running for public office. He helped us understand the value of a lobbyist and the value of associations in educating the legislators about issues. He explained the value that is put on correspondence that is received in his office and which are most notable. Mr. Anderson spent over an hour with us and answered all the questions the students had.

The students then went to visit with their own representatives and senators and were able to leave information about why they support or oppose certain Bills.

The students then had the opportunity to watch some of the proceedings of both the State House of Representatives and the State Senate from each Chamber's gallery.

Lastly, we met with representatives of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). Stephen Mills and Stewart Myrick gave us a presentation about the regulatory processes and an overall view of TDLR and their working philosophy. They then answered questions from the students. This was helpful as they prepare to be licensed as Audiology Interns.

This appears to have been a valuable opportunity for these students. We believe that other students, faculty, and any Audiologist licensed in Texas should have this opportunity. We plan to host this type of event again in the future. If you are interested in participating in future events, please contact Matt Lyon.

Legislative Update

by Matt Lyon, Governmental Affairs Liason

The Texas Academy of Audiology is monitoring numerous Bills in the current Texas legislative session. The Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Michelle Gillentine, Governmental Liaison, Matt Lyon, and Lobbyist, Brad Shields are following these Bills and we are notifying you when activity occurs and when we need your help. Please watch for these notices on our Facebook page and by email. If you have any questions about these Bills, please contact one of us.

Bill #	Legislator	Description
HB 490	Anderson, Rodney	Health care coverage for hearing aids and Ci accessories
HB 831	Anderson, Doc	Health care coverage for treatment of craniofacial abnormalities
HB 1055	Burkett, Cindy	Relating to a limitation on the amount of certain licensing fees
HB 1419	Bohac, Dwayne	Relating to the salary paid to certain professions employees of public schools
HB 1684	Isaac, Jason	Abolishing the regulation of speech language pathologist and audiologists.
HB 2752	Raymond, Richard	Relating to the participation of speech-language pathologist as providers in Medicaid.
HB 3119	Alan, Alma	Related to the repayment of certain speech-language pathologists and audiologists education loans.
HB 3253	Deshotel, Joe	Related to language acquisition of children less than 8 years of age who are deaf or hard of hearing.
HB3852	Coleman, H.B.	Relating to licensing of SLP/A by the Council of Examiners of Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapist, and Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists
HB 4007	Kuempel, John	Relating to the licensing of certain occupations by TDLR
SB 247	Zaffirini, Judith	Relating to funding sources for the repayment of certain SLP/A education loans. (companion to HB 3119)
SB 354	Watson, Kirk	Relating to language acquisition of children less than 8 years old who are deaf or hard of hearing. (companion to HB 3852)
SB 552	Kolkhorst, Lois	Health care coverage for hearing aids and CI accessories. (Companion to HB 490)
SB 1488	West, Royce	Relating to nonsubstantive additions, revisions of, and corrections in enacted codes of the 84 th legislature.

We are **ALL** looking forward to another wonderful TAA Conference this year in San Marcos! This year's Conference theme is **SUPERHEROES**, and how fitting – the Conference will be filled with superheroes! Texas audiologists that strive to do their best for their patients, helping them to hear better of course are superheroes! It will be fun to see how all the TAA Conference attendees will be dressing up as their favorite superhero at the Friday night dinner/dance!!

The Scott Haug Foundation (SHF) will be introducing the keynote speaker again. Our Foundation strives to honor audiologist Scott Haug who died from cancer in 1984. He was an audiologist who believed in excellence, mentoring young audiologists and audiology students, and believed in having a good time with his colleagues. His legacy influenced many during the 30 years of the SHF Retreats, and now through the Texas Academy of Audiology. We are grateful to the TAA Board of Directors for their support of the Foundation and its goals. This year the SHF will focus on two big things and two smaller things.

OUR TWO BIG THINGS

1. Last year the SHF awarded the first **Dr. Robert J. Dunlop Student Scholar Award** to **Evan Mattice**, a fourth-year audiology student from UTD. He was highly recommended by his professors and by other audiology professionals for his excellence in academics and professionalism. Congratulations Evan on a job well done! You are well-deserving of this award.

We will honor a new Award recipient in San Marcos at the next TAA Conference this October, after reviewing nominee recommendations from all five Texas University Audiology programs: **Lamar University, Texas Tech, University of North Texas, University of Texas, University of Texas at Dallas**

2. This year, the SHF will honor an **Outstanding Texas Audiologist!** The awardee will be chosen from nominations by **YOU, the TAA member!!** Here's what you need to do:
 - A. Send a letter of nomination addressed to Jacquie Patton at the address below.
 - B. Include a current resume or curriculum vitae for the nominee.
 - C. Provide sufficient documentation to support the nominee's qualifications that meet the award criteria (3 to 5 supporting items such as additional letters of recommendation, descriptions of outstanding contributions, etc.).

Important Note: This recognition will be awarded annually to an audiologist (**living or deceased**) who has made significant contributions to the profession of audiology in general or specifically in any of the following areas of the field: **education, research, outreach, innovation, or business.**

Candidates are those who, through their efforts, have contributed to the advancement of individuals with hearing impairment. **Nominees for this award and those who place an individual in nomination must be audiologists who are or have been practicing in the state of Texas and who are currently members of the Texas Academy of Audiology.**

The above information (hard copy or electronic) must be received by the SHF no later than May 15, 2017 so get moving!!! Address for hard copy submissions is:

**Scott Haug Foundation,
1671 Stallion Springs Drive
Fischer, TX 78623**

for electronic submissions: hearingconnections@gvtc.com

Our two smaller things are:

1. **T-Shirts!** Conference attendees have been asking about producing commemorative t-shirts to be sold at the conference. Well ask no more because this year there will be t-shirts. All profits made on these shirts will go to the Dr. Robert J. Dunlop Student Scholarship as mentioned above. We need an idea of how many to order. If you think you may want a t-shirt this year, send an email at the address above with your name and shirt size so we know how to order. There is no obligation to purchase a shirt.
2. **Golf!** We have observed an interest in having a golf scramble. It's a lot of fun and the time allotted for this activity is Thursday morning from 9:30am to 12:30pm. If you are interested in playing golf please send an email to the above address.

Please join us:

1. In helping to make the Texas Academy of Audiology second-to-none;
2. In honoring students who shine in academics and clinical professionalism;
3. In honoring those who have been or are making quality contributions to the field of audiology; and,
4. In helping to make the TAA Conferences memorable and fun too!

See you in San Marcos this October, Superheroes!!

J.T. Beckman, President
Scott Haug Foundation

Interested in the first TAA official conference Tshirt? How about a game of Golf?

So we know if we have enough interest to pursue further, please send us an email with your T-Shirt size and let us know if you would like to play some golf on Thursday. **This is for Information Only – No Obligation is Implied** (Send the information to: hearingconnection@gvtc.com)

TEXAS ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

P.O. Box 93331
Lubbock, TX 79493-3331

SHIPPING ADDRESS

Attn: Addressee
555 Street Address, Suite
555
City, STATE 55555

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jami Brooks, Au.D., President-Elect

Scott Marquardt, Au.D., Past President

Crystal Wiggins, Au.D., Secretary/Treasurer

Kimberly DeBona, Au.D., VP of Public Relations

Robert Herring, Au.D., VP of Membership

Jennifer Bobo, Au.D., VP of Education

Michelle Gillentine, Au.D., VP of Government Issues

Shawna Jackson, Au.D., VP of Professional Issues

Appointed board members and support staff:

Matthew Lyon, M.A., Governmental Affairs Liaison

Karen Ditty, Au.D., Legislative Issues

David Gordon, M.A., Treasurer of Political Action Committee

Janet Krueger, M.A., Director of Website Management

Jana Hensley, CPA, Business Administrator

Brad Shields, Lobbyist

