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Letter from the Chair: Fall '17

In this issue of our newsletter, we're delighted to introduce you to five new specialists. Our congratulations go to Tara Cassidy, Melissa Malani, Sonya Harris, Helen Li, and Dara Rogoff for achieving Specialty Certification in Child Language and Language Disorders. We're pleased to add their advanced expertise to our ranks of exceptional clinicians, administrators, and academicians. Be sure to read their bios included in later pages for a view of the range of their knowledge, implementation, and leadership.

Information is provided below regarding the one-hour advanced session that our Board is hosting at this year's ASHA Convention in November. Many of our specialists report difficulties in finding continuing education at the advanced level, so we're committed to offering a one-hour advanced session every year at Convention. **Save Saturday, Nov. 11th at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. (CC/501ABC-Level 2) for "Improving Expository Speaking, Writing, and Comprehension for Students with Language-Related Learning Disabilities" presented by Teresa Ukrainetz, Catherine Ross and Amy Peterson.**

As we near Convention time, you'll receive an email from us highlighting sessions that will be presented by our specialists as well as an invitation to sign up to work at our booth in the Exhibit Hall. Both our specialists' sessions and the booth in the Exhibit Hall can be excellent opportunities for you to connect with other outstanding child language experts.

By now you should have received an email about voting for two new Board members for 2018 – 20. Our thanks go to our Committee on Nominations — Sue Ellen Krause, Sherry Sancibrian and Alisha Springle — for providing such a strong slate of candidates. The elected Board members will be working on your behalf, so please read their statements provided in the ballot link from that email and vote for the two candidates of your choice.

Our Board continues to work diligently to complete a number of major projects that will ensure quality in our application process and expanded services to our specialists. It is a privilege to facilitate the work of such committed professionals. Watch for announcements in 2018 as we launch these advancements!



Kathleen Whitmire, PhD
CCC-SLP (Ret.)
BCS-CL (Ret.)
ABCLLD Chair



*"Don't search for inspiration
when you have a task to do:
Just start your work
and you will see
that it will soon find you."
~Charles Ghigna*

Complete required CEUs conveniently at Convention

You won't want to miss our '17 ASHA one-hour session!

We're counting down to this year's ASHA Convention, which will feature a great advanced-level session, brought to you by the ABCLLD Continuing Education Committee.

- One-hour advanced session – "Improving Expository Speaking, Writing, and Comprehension for Students with Language-Related Learning Disabilities"
 - Invited speakers are: **Teresa A. Ukrainetz***, S-LP(C), ASHA Fellow, Professor and SLP Division Chair at Utah State University; **Catherine L. Ross**, MS, CCC-SLP, Associate Lecturer and Supervisor of Clinical Services for the Division of Communication Disorders at the University of Wyoming; and **Amy K. Peterson**, MS, CCC-SLP, speech-language pathologist and lead SLP for the Laramie County School District in Cheyenne, Wyoming.
 - They will report on the effect of a novel, instructional notetaking procedure on the comprehension and expression of informational texts by fourth to sixth graders who have language-related learning disabilities. The notetaking intervention they created systematically, explicitly, and supportively moves students from identifying ideas in informational text to expanding those ideas into fluent, well-formed oral and written reports. The primary investigator will report on the study and the two clinical collaborators will describe how they have implemented the treatment protocol in their work settings: a university clinic and an elementary school.

*Teresa Ukrainetz hails from Canada originally so her credentials look different than ASHA's CCCs.



SAVE THE DATE

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ABCLLD
ADVANCED
SESSION @ ASHA
CONVENTION

•
Sat., Nov. 11

•
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

•
CC/501ABC-Level 2

Specialist Spotlight

ABCLLD is expanding!

This year, the Board has witnessed a significant increase in the number of new Board Certified Specialists in Child Language and Language Disorders (BCS-CL). Please congratulate your fellow recently-inducted peers and celebrate even more advanced knowledge, skills, and leadership than ever before!

Tara Cassidy, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL

Tara Cassidy received her Masters of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 2003. Over the years, she has worked in a variety of settings. Tara has spent the past 10 years working in public education. When Tara first began working in public education, her time was split between working in a program designed for students with emotional and behavioral disorders and one designed for students with ASD. This is where she began to develop a love of language development as well as witness first-hand the everyday impact a language disorder has on a child's academic and social success. That is what drove her to pursue board certification. Tara is now working towards certification as a dyslexia specialist because she believes that a holistic approach to language development through written and oral language yields the highest level of success.



Dara Rogoff, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL

Dara Rogoff holds her BS in Communication Disorders from UW-Madison and her MS in Speech-Language Pathology from Emerson College. Dara has worked in many different settings including pediatric hospital, schools, and private practice. Since 2010, Dara has worked for PresenceLearning in a variety of roles, moving from providing direct services to supervision and product development/management.



Melissa D. Malani, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL

Melissa Malani is a practicing speech-language pathologist, a professional developer, adjunct instructor for the University of Central Florida (UCF), and an AAC consultant for Saltillo Corporation. Melissa is a clinical educator for several universities and has supervised graduate students ranging from beginning clinic to final externship experiences. She has also supervised numerous clinical fellows in the field of speech-language pathology and continues to provide ongoing clinical education to the SLPs and student clinicians. Melissa has participated in numerous research projects, co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles and presentations, and provided professional development workshops. She has been an invited author and presenter for several topics including adolescent language and literacy, digital literacy, and augmentative/alternative communication.



As an adjunct instructor with UCF, Melissa teaches numerous graduate and undergraduate courses and has served as a program coordinator with community organizations to promote experiential student learning. She serves as the Northeast Florida Consultant for Saltillo Corporation and supports individuals with complex communication needs, as well as their families and support teams. She is an active member of ASHA, the Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (FLASHA), and the International Reading Association (IRA).

Sonya Harris, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL

Sonya Harris is a senior speech-language pathologist at Nemours Children's Hospital. She treats children with developmental delays (autism), acquired communication impairments, birth defects (cleft lip/palate), general communication disorders, and feeding/swallowing delays. She provides evaluation/treatment for children as outpatients as well as those admitted to the hospital in the NICU, PICU, CCCICU (Cardiac Critical Care Intensive Care Unit), inpatient rehabilitation, and general acute care in a family centered, child-friendly environment. Sonya has been an SLP for 16 years.

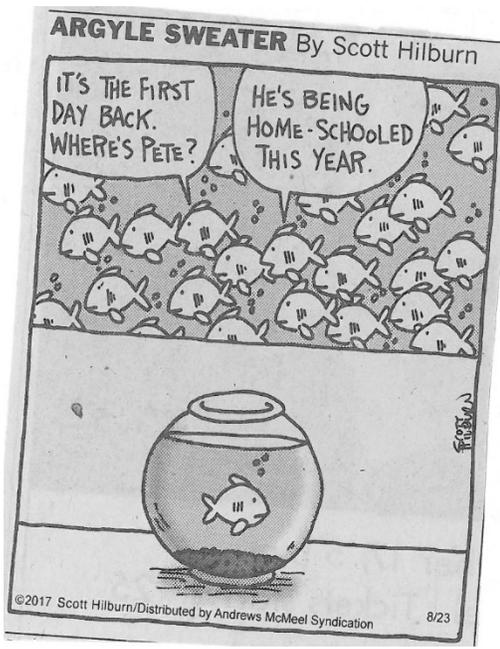


Recently, she graduated from ASHA's Leadership Development Program for Healthcare and is the SLP diagnostician at the Autism Center of Excellence. She was a speech-language specialist for Seminole County Public Schools and a therapy manager of a private practice in Orlando. In the school system, she trained new therapists and developed/implemented new rules handed down by Florida DOE. She is a graduate of Florida State University with both BS and MS degrees. Her training includes the latest with child language therapies with settings including private practice, home health, adult day care, schools, and rehabilitation hospital with patients from 0 to 102 years of age. Sonya currently holds the CCC, State of Florida Licensure, ASHA membership and a clinical board specialty in childhood language and language disorders.

Helen Li, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL

Helen Li has been working in public education and early intervention for 17 years. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degrees in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Loma Linda University and Master of Arts degree in Speech Pathology from California State University, Los Angeles. She is fluent in Cantonese and Mandarin and serves as a bilingual service provider. She has dedicated her professional life to providing treatment to individuals ranging from toddler to young adult with communicative and social-emotional challenges. Areas of specific interest include augmentative and alternative communication, bilingual evaluation, and selective mutism. Her approach to therapy is based on developing relationships in a natural and enriching environment. In 2010, she received the Outstanding Achievement Award from El Rancho Unified School District for dedication to her work. Helen is also a guest lecturer, and presents topics related to bilingual evaluations and treatments.





on the lighter side...



Pictured at the ABCLLD July Board meeting (l to r) are: Consumer Member Kelly Scott, Administrator Danielle Ziulkowski, Member Froma Roth, Chair Kathleen Whitmire, Secretary Judy Montgomery, Co-CE Coordinator Linda Schreiber, Treasurer Melissa Jakubowitz, Vice Chair Monica Ferguson, and Co-CE Coordinator Trisha Self.



Advanced Knowledge, Skills & Leadership

The mission of the **American Board of Child Language and Language Disorders (ABCLLD)** is to promote high quality services to children and adolescents ages birth through 21 years whose language learning may be characterized as typical, at-risk, or atypical. The ABCLLD is approved by the Council for Clinical Certification.

The ABCLLD e-Newsletter is created and distributed regularly for specialists. For more information, visit www.childlanguagespecialist.org or contact the Board Administrator at ABCLLDInfo@gmail.com.