

# Sounding Board

Messages from the Board of Governors



## **Deadline for Transition to the Doctorate Quickly Approaching**

As the ABA has publicized over the past several years, for **all applications for Board Certification in Audiology filed after January 1, 2007, an applicant must hold a doctoral level degree, either an Au.D. or Ph.D.** Please make your colleagues who have expressed interest in the ABA credential aware of this rapidly approaching deadline.

This new requirement does not affect current ABA certificants who hold a Master's level degree. Additionally, a Master's level professional who has filed an application which is ultimately granted, or who has received Board Certification in Audiology prior to January 1, 2007, may later pursue an ABA specialty certification.

## **Information Regarding Tier 1 Activities and Guidelines for CE Providers and Presenters Available Soon**

One of the hallmarks of the ABA certification program is a quest for excellence through lifelong learning. The ABA's new recertification requirements, effective for all recertifications after January 1, 2008, encourage participants in the ABA's voluntary certification program to continuously enhance their knowledge base and keep up with cutting-edge developments in the field.

The new CE requirements are 6.0 CEUs (or 60 clock hours,) during a three-year certification period, with 1.5 CEUs (or 15 clock hours) of the total hours devoted to Tier 1 CEU activities. Additionally, of the 60 hours, 3 hours must be in professional ethics at the Tier 1 or Tier 2 level. If you hold the ABA specialty certification in cochlear implants, 30 of the 60 hours must pertain to cochlear implants and may be at the Tier 1 or Tier 2 level.

To date, Tier 1 CEUs have been offered at AudiologyNOW!2006 in Minneapolis and Tier 1 CEUs will also be offered at AudiologyNOW! 2007 in Denver. Additionally, Tier 1 CEUs will be available from a variety of sources, including *Seminars in Hearing* and distance learning to be offered by the American Academy of Audiology within the next year. Both a portion of the Tier 1 requirement, as well as the ethics CE requirement, may be met by utilizing [\*Ethics in Audiology\*](#), also

known as "The Green Book".

More details regarding how and where to obtain Tier 1 CEUs will be available soon via a special edition of *The Sounding Board*. The special edition will include guidelines for CE providers who wish to offer Tier 1 CE activities.

### **Au.D. Academic Coursework Counts Towards CEUs Required for Recertification**

Are you Board Certified in Audiology and currently working towards your Au.D.? Your coursework counts toward ABA recertification. Coursework must be in one of the following approved content areas:

- Amplification
- Audiologic Rehabilitation
- Diagnostics
- Ethics
- Hearing Conservation
- Hearing Science
- Practice Management
- Professional Issues
- Technology Issues
- Vestibular Assessment & Management

One semester credit is equivalent to 15 contact hours and one quarter credit is equivalent to 10 contact hours. A transcript or grade report from the university is required for documentation. There is no limit on the number of such hours that may be used for recertification credit. Courses must pertain directly to ethics to count towards the professional ethics requirement.

### **New Florida Licensure Law Specifically Recognizes ABA Certification for Expedited Licensure**

The Governor of Florida signed Senate Bill 0370 into law on June 7, 2006. In addition to requiring the doctoral degree for audiologists applying for a new license after January 1, 2008, the law specifically recognizes ABA certification for expedited licensure purposes.

The State of Florida joins Colorado, Ohio, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia and Washington as yet another state specifically recognizing the ABA credential for expedited licensure or registration.

Congratulations to Florida Academy of Audiology President and ABA certificant Donna Scheitler and the entire Florida Academy, including ABA certificants Cindy Simon and Janet Shelfer, who worked to pass this important legislation.

The growing list of states specifically recognizing the ABA credential enhances certificants' professional portability and the value of the credential. The ABA looks forward to adding more states to this list.

### **ABA Welcomes New Student Liaison**

The ABA Board of Governors is pleased to welcome Amber Reith as the new student liaison to the Board.

Amber earned her B.S. in Communications Disorders from Appalachian State University and is entering her 4th year in Auburn University's Au.D. program. During her third year, Amber earned clinical experience at ENT Associates of Alabama in Montgomery and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Amber will be working closely with the student community to familiarize students with the important work of the ABA as well as encourage student participation in the ABA provisional certification program.

The ABA thanks the many students who applied for the student liaison position and extends a warm welcome to Amber. A plan is being formulated to increase significantly student participation in the ABA—stay tuned.

### **Good Things Happening at ABA**

A number of positive changes are occurring at the ABA designed to enhance communication, efficiency and service to certificants.

Technological improvements in the works include a greatly enhanced ABA website as well as implementation of an improved association management system. With a target date for unveiling in Fall 2006, the website will include a host of great new features including a calendar of CE events available to ABA certificants, specific information regarding cochlear implant specialists, detailed recertification information and more! The new association management system will enhance the recertification process and allow for greater communications with certificants.

Another positive development is the addition of Catherine Lawrence to the ABA staff. During the past year, Catherine has worked part-time with the ABA but on July 1st joins the staff full-time as Certification Assistant. Catherine's previous experience includes administrative support to the legal and accounting professions, as well as the hotel industry. Welcome to Catherine!



NAFDA students at Auburn University celebrate the holidays

## **Audiologists in Training: ABA Spotlights NAFDA Chapters**

### **Auburn University**

1) When was the Auburn University NAFDA Chapter started?

We have had a NAFDA chapter for three years - the inaugural class of Au.D students officially started our chapter in the Fall of 2003 - the same time that the Auburn University AuD program was established.

2) How many members does your NAFDA chapter include?

Auburn University's NAFDA chapter has 100% student participation. There are currently 27 student members.

3) Who are the Auburn University chapter executive board members, and how far along are they in their Au.D. program?

President: Carrie Bower (2nd year)

Vice President: Heather Hook (1st year)

Secretary: Jennifer Browning (1st year)

Treasurer: Lindsey Latiolas (1st year)

Membership Officer: Haley Messersmith (1st year)

Historian/Public Relations Officer: Alice Cellino (2nd year)

National Representative: Allison Ivey (3rd Year)

4) Who are your faculty mentors?

The Auburn University Au.D. program consists of two primary academic facilities: Auburn University and Auburn University Montgomery; and three primary clinical facilities: Auburn University Speech and Hearing Clinic, Auburn University Montgomery Speech and Hearing Clinic, and ENT Associates of Alabama.

We are extremely fortunate to have many staff and faculty members and associate faculty members who provide mentoring and unique academic and clinical opportunities. Our primary contacts include:

Judith Blumsack, Ph.D., Auburn University NAFDA Chapter Advisor  
Sridhar Krishnamurti, Ph.D.  
Carole Johnson, Ph.D.  
Tom Borton, Ph.D.  
Bettie Borton, Au.D.  
Sandra Clark-Lewis, Au.D.  
Martha Wilson, Au.D.  
Melissa Russell, MCD  
Georgia Holmes, Au.D.

5) How is the Auburn University chapter involved in the local community?

Our chapter recently established Auburn Alabama Head Start as our philanthropy. We assist the local Head Start program by providing hearing and speech screenings. Our members volunteer annually at MANE (Montgomery Area Non-Traditional Equestrians). This is an organization that provides alternate forms of therapy for children with a wide variety of physical, emotional, and cognitive disabilities. Our chapter also hosts a booth annually to promote Noise Awareness Day. This allows our members to promote the field of audiology to the students and faculty on our campus.

We've also held several fundraisers that benefit the Auburn University Audiology Students including a yard sale, and a silent auction at PASA (Professional Audiological Society of Alabama). Our chapter has relationships with several retirement homes, churches, and local organizations where we conduct speech and hearing screenings on a regular basis.

6) Are there any special activities in the planning stages?

We are in the process of establishing an expanded relationship between our chapter and the different Head Start programs located within the Auburn area. Specifically, our chapter would like to develop a mentoring program with the students enrolled in those programs. Our chapter is also developing an annual Open House through the Auburn University Speech and Hearing Clinic in which we would showcase, and demonstrate, different manufacturers' products.

7) In what ways is your chapter involved in local, state, and/or national audiology events or meetings?

Our chapter tries to have representatives at virtually every major meeting and we encourage our members to be as involved as they can be on every level. Our members have a significant presence at the annual PASA convention. Our students are encouraged by our faculty to attend conferences that will further enhance our clinical and academic knowledge. Several of our members are involved in different National NAFDA boards, and Auburn fourth year student Amber Reith recently was selected as the student member for the American Board of Audiology™ Board

of Governors.

8) What do you think sets the Auburn University chapter apart?

Our chapter is set apart by our unique attitude towards incoming students. We organize a pre-orientation party for the new class of students to meet each other in a safe and friendly environment. The current students tell their most embarrassing clinic moments, and introductions are made. During orientation to the Auburn University campus and clinic, our chapter continues to hold social events for the students and faculty. This allows the incoming class to become familiar with the facility and the audiology program. It is very important to our chapter that incoming students are welcomed in a friendly and encouraging environment in order to allow the students to have the best start in this new program.

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Remember, the University Liaison / Student Committee of the American Board of Audiology™ is soliciting information from NAFDA chapters from across the country for a series of articles about their local NAFDA members. We are very interested in the work those chapter members are doing in and out of the classroom and the soundroom, and want to feature a new chapter in each edition of our electronic newsletter, *The Sounding Board!* Send in information regarding your chapter to the ABA at [aba@audiology.org](mailto:aba@audiology.org) or call the ABA office at 1-800-881-5410 for more information!

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