

President's Address

Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders

April 14, 2005

James J. Mahshie

Good morning and welcome to the 26th Council of Academic Programs Conference. What a great place! I have already congratulated Rob for arranging for this wonderful weather I trust that you are enjoying this years location.

I hope that you will find this year's program equally as relevant and timely as I do. I find I'm in the enviable position of wanting to clone myself in order to attend all of the sessions in which I am interested. The program committee has done a great job. Please join me in thanking Rob Fox, Colleen O'Rourke, Barbara Solomon, and Frances Laven for their excellent work in developing this diverse and appealing program.

I have been attending these conferences for a number of years, and am truly honored to be here serving as president of the Council. I had heard of the council for a number of years before attending one of its meetings, but it was not until I confronted the challenges of being a new chair that I began to really appreciate what these meeting meant. Dealing with students, faculty, administrators, balancing budgets, covering and scheduling courses, and creating the right atmosphere for all to do well and flourish quickly hit me as an almost insurmountable task. While I would like to say that coming to council meetings has solved all of the challenges I confront, I can't. I can say that the Council meetings helped. The topics were timely, and relevant, and the people I met and talked with were both helpful and supportive. It also became evident that the unique problems that I was dealing with ... were not so unique. I quickly found the council meetings to be the most important meeting I attend each year. I know that many of you feel the same way.

For those of you that are first time attendees, I think you will find this to be a valuable experience, and if you are like most here, you'll be back.

This morning, I want to acknowledge a number of guests and people that are very important to this organization and conference. Secondly, I want to provide a preliminary update on our activities during the past year. The Spring Status Report will arrive soon and will provide more details about these activities. And finally, I would like to share with you some of my thoughts about the excitement and challenges that I see in our future.

Introductions

I want to welcome our corporate sponsors this year. I am pleased to announce a record number of corporate sponsors. These are:

AGS Publishing - first time sponsor - Constance Bettino

Allyn & Bacon Publishers - Steve Dragin, Kris Ellis-Levy

Audient (Northwest Lions Foundation) -- James Munson

Blue Tree Publishing - Robert O'Brien

ContentScan - Karina Vidal

Crossbow Software - first-time sponsor - Lee Mendoza

Kay Pentax - Paul Arcell

Laureate Learning Systems, Inc. - first-time sponsor - Bernard Fox

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins - Pamela Lappies, Mary Martin

Plural Publishing, Inc. - first-time sponsor - Sadanand Singh, Lauren Duffy

Progressus Therapy - first-time sponsor - Jean Blosser

SuperDuper Publications - Lisa Usher

Thinking Publications - Linda Schreiber

Thomson Delmar Learning - Kalin Conerly, Connie Lundberg-Watkins

CAPCSD Thomson Delmar awards

I would now like to hand the proceedings to Julie Masterson and Kalin Conerly who will present award to this year's recipients of the CAPCSD Thomson Delmar Awards.

Past Presidents

I would also like to recognize the past presidents of the council in attendance. Would all of those past presidents of the Council that are in attendance please stand and be recognized.

Dignitaries and the Board

We also have a number of attendees from ASHA, AAA, and OSAP. There are additional representatives of organizations that will be introduced later in the program as they present papers and lead discussions. To all of the distinguished representatives of these organizations, I would like to extend a warm welcome.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the Executive Board. This group of volunteers gives so much to this council. I want to personally thank all of them for their tireless effort on behalf of the council, and the creative, and important initiatives and directions which they have spearheaded.

John Saxman – Past-president (leaving)

Richard Hurtig – President-elect

Nan Ratner - Vice President for Communication (leaving)

Kenn Appel – Secretary (leaving)

Rob Fox – Vice President for Professional Development (leaving)

Julie Masterson – vice president for research and academic development

Judy Brasseur – Vice President for Standards and Credentials

Dianne Meyer – Treasurer

The year

This has been a busy and productive year for me. I began to get a feel for the job when I found, during July, that I was involved with council activities nearly every weekend. I began to realize that serving in this capacity on the board might involve more than going to nice places like this for meetings.

It has been a busy year, but one for which I feel a great sense of accomplishment. It has been a real pleasure working with the current board, this hard working, committed, and knowledgeable group that brings a great deal to the council. It is said that the surest way to look good in a position such as this is to surround yourself with good people. I've been fortunate in being surrounded by very good people. The Board has worked diligently on a number of initiatives, many of which you will hear about throughout this program.

Pedagogy

A very strong priority of this year has been to focus on the possibilities for enhancing the reason we are all here – pedagogy. I think you will agree that this year's conference program is an excellent representation of that goal.

An initiative that we are all very excited about is the development of a learning object repository for CSD. A committee comprised of Doug Martin, Ann Lieberth, Mike Chial, Ferenc Bunta and Judith Kuster are exploring ways that web-based learning materials prepared for various topics in CSD can be shared amongst faculty throughout the country. This initiative is in its early stages, but promises to be a great resource for both clinical, and classroom instruction

Ph.D. shortage

Once again we are sponsoring a Ph.D. forum that will follow the business meeting on Saturday morning. The focus will be on three current challenges faced by programs offering research doctorates. These issues are: 1. Strategies for offering adequate coursework, such as distance learning and traveling scholars programs. In conjunction with

this, the Council is working toward developing and offering a Summer Institute that will provide opportunities for doc students from throughout the country to get together to learn and share. 2. Discussion of the barriers to the conduct of research, including federal and local regulations. 3. The forum will discuss efforts to recruit top quality students into Ph.D. programs in CSD.

High School Initiative

The council has also recognized the importance of getting students into the pipeline early for both clinical and research careers in CSD. Toward that goal, Julie Masterson has spearheaded sponsorship by the council of a student science fair projects in csd.

The task force on supervisor qualifications

This is a joint committee that emerged from discussions with ASHA, CAA, and CFCC last summer during which it became evident that we were thinking in somewhat similar ways about the need to examine the issue of what are the appropriate qualifications (and credentials) of those that are responsible for supervising our students in their quest for certification. This joint committee is currently examining the issue and will be providing a report of their findings in the near future.

Data gathering

Historically, the council has served an important role in gathering data from member programs that serves the membership in many of its discussions with University administrators. This year marks a milestone -

Completion of the first on-line salary survey

Completion of the first on-line survey of undergraduate and graduate programs

Continued involvement with the Higher education data base project in conjunction with ASHA -- This project, sometimes referred to as the MOAS, is intended to reduce the

redundancy in various surveys generated by ASHA, CAPCSD, and other organizations. We will hear more about this project at this conference.

Program Quality

Participation in the defining of quality indicators for audiology programs – joint sponsor of January’s audiology summit.

Looking to the future

As we look into our crystal ball, we see that there are challenges and exciting possibilities in the future. What will accreditation look like? How effective are our training programs? Where do slp and audiology assistants fit into the service delivery picture? What is the role of US programs in the global workplace? How can the council best meet the needs of the programs it represents? These are but a few of the issues that we will have to grapple with in the near future.

Accreditation

We will have an opportunity to address issues of accreditation during this conference, and these are indeed important issues. At this meeting we will hear from CAA, the current accredited body for both Audiology and SLP, as well as the newly created ACAE, (accreditation commission for audiology education). An important point to keep in mind in this dialogue is that accreditation is ultimately in the hands of the programs represented here. We need to weigh the evidence, look at the challenges, and arrive at reasoned conclusions that are best for our programs. We need to keep in mind that we are drawing conclusions about accreditation issues that are moving targets – the standards are being drafted and modified as we speak. It is important to look at these in light of what should be the most central issue we deal with – the quality of the education we provide to our students.

Quality of our programs

I've had the opportunity to participate in a number of activities during the past two years that have focused on issues related to accreditation. I believe that accreditation is an important way to establish expectations for academic programs. Nonetheless, it is generally conceded that standards are, by their very nature, setting the minimal expectations for programs. We need to also focus on those creative, and exceptional things that set programs apart, and that ensure that we not only do the right thing, but that we do the right things right.

The Audiology summit last January did a great deal to move audiology along that road. That effort is continuing.

How many of you have more than one child? You probably know then, that at times one child may be more challenging, more demanding, and require a greater amount of your time. The result, although unintended, is less time and attention is available to the issues of the other child, the one who may require less effort. You love both, care about both, and want both to flourish, but there is just so much effort to go around.

We have focused much of the council's effort in the past few years on issues impacting on audiology. These are important issues, and this has been effort well spent. We must also remember that many of the issues surrounding accreditation, and quality of academic programs in audiology should also be of concern for our slp programs. Toward that goal, I suggest that we need to convene a group, similar to that group involved with the audiology summits, to examine those things being done to ensure the quality education of speech language pathologists. The Council, together with ASHA, should explore ways of cooperating to bring such a conference to fruition.

Continuum of service delivery

Bob Novack has talked a number of times about the need to examine our current professional training programs in the context of the continuum of service delivery that we

see existing in various settings. Solving the problems of one aspect of that service delivery model, and of educating those fill positions at that level, while ignoring, or being indifferent to others, is self limiting, and sure to result in future challenges. Clearly our educational focus has been on baccalaureate and post baccalaureate programs in CSD. As we will find out later during this conference in a presentation on speech language pathology assistants, there has emerged a very confused picture of the role, training and credentialing of audiology and slp assistants.

We have had a challenging time dealing with this reality. First resisted, then constrained, we are now confused about how best to address the issue of slp and audiology assistants. We need to consider both the appropriate training and credentialing of assistants, and how the master's and doctoral level clinician will use, supervise, and incorporate these professionals into service delivery models. As we see increased concern within various sectors of meeting mandated services with dwindling resources, this issue is even more pressing.

Concluding remarks

There are of course, many other issues that are of considerable concern to the programs that the council serves. These are issues that are here today, or that are just beyond the horizon that we need to consider now.

The inclusion of programs in our dialogues that are from other countries is an important area of concern. Three issues that easily come to mind are:

- Programs struggling with dwindling resources, attempting to deliver quality education in light of fiscal stress.
- Issues that have emerged regarding documentation for accreditation
- The Clinical Doctorate in SLP

The council has historically defined itself in terms of these pressing issues that impact on our academic programs. We will have a great deal to consider in the future, and will likely have more areas of need than resources to address. What is the council's direction?

- Pedagogy
- Helping programs with limited resources to survive - are there ways that programs can cooperate to share resources, or barter resources to enable the spreading of the commodity we have, instruction, to more students.
- International connections
- Provide a venue for the various groups of our profession to be heard, and to meet.
- Information source re. academic programs
- Ph.D. shortage
- The challenge of multiple accrediting bodies in audiology

The task of the council will be to identify and prioritize the issues that are most relevant to those programs that constitute the council. We hope that through the discussion, and dialogue at this meeting, that those issues and priorities will be evident, and will direct the efforts of CAPCSD in the future.