

2003 SCSHA Conference Review
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2003 Conference Chair

This year's conference was deemed the sapphire conference since we were celebrating our 45th anniversary. I think all who attended would agree, the 2003 conference was a jewel! It was great being back at the Kingston Plantation and beautiful Myrtle Beach. Unfortunately, not as many of our members were able to attend the conference this year, but we still had an excellent attendance, over 570 attendees.

Many thanks to our year round partner, the State Department of Education for their sponsorship of our conference. We also thank our conference supporters, ARK Therapeutic Services, Inc. and Beaufort Memorial Hospital.

I am very proud to say that this year we were able to offer more opportunities for CEUs than ever before. We had a total of 41 sessions from which to choose as well as 2 short courses, the poster session, and the awards luncheon. It was an honor to have Audrey Holland join us to present the short course, **Meeting the Challenges of Healthcare in the Management of Aphasia**. The room was filled to capacity for Tim MacKese's short course, **Stuttering: Effective Strategies for School-Age Children**. Our out-of-state presenters brought a wealth of information to share with everyone. We are grateful to Nancy McKinley, Sara Rosenfeld-Johnson, Barbara Lee, Tracy Schooling, Lynn Flahive, Diane Kennedy, Patricia Tulloss, Jessa Fagan, Jennifer Stephens, Todd Houston, Nicki Pope, and Derek Cline for taking the time to come to South Carolina. We were very sorry that, due to a medical emergency, Karlene Stefanakos was unable to join us.

As always it was great having our own members give of their time and expertise to our association by making presentations. A big thank you to Doug Schaedel, Caryn Melvin, Eula Boylston, Sarah Scarborough, Brittany Royals, Laurel Hays, Cindy Charles, Stella Smith, Cindy Roberson, Chrissi Lynch, Dianne Greyerbiehl, Leigh Ann Spell, Laura Holliday, Julius Fridriksson, Henri Sandifer, Eric Healy, Kerry Warren-Couch, Pam Halligan, Kirk Schull, Laura Day, Daniel Gaskell, Wendy Balsley, Cheryl Rogers, Gina Crosby-Quinatoa, Scott Thompson, Debbie Brady, Lily Nalty, Vanessa Coleman-Lebby, Loretta Jones, Wendy Wingard-Gay, Janice Jackson, Charley Adams, Cecelia Jeffries, Martha Simpson-McDade, Mary Steppling, Veronica Reynolds, and Ruby Brice McClain.

The public school forum and clinical grandrounds are always favorites. Thank you to Sharon Brunson for planning the public school forum and Carol Pollock for clinical grandrounds. Our public school therapists also had the opportunity to hear the latest from the State Department of Education from Dr. Susan DuRant and Joseph Bath during their presentation.

A first for this year's conference was the opportunity to earn CEUs for the poster session. Our poster presenters, Henri Sandifer, Kim Aard, Lynn Beach, Dayna Daniels, Kelli Moore, Joslynn Cooper, Michelle Patrick, Robin Jones, Leigh Morrow, Caroline Nettles, Luann Collins Mezzatesta, Lisarose Mehler, Tobi McLoughlin, Ashley Powell, Allison Yoder, Chryssoula Thodi-Petrou, Jennifer Payne, Angela McLeod, Edie Hines, Judith Martin, and Alice Anne Farley provided interesting information for everyone.

The awards luncheon was an "oldie, reinvented". For the first time in several years we featured an awards luncheon to recognize the honors of our association. As part of the luncheon, Miss South Carolina, Kelly McCorkle, was the featured speaker. Members got to enjoy a good meal,

honor colleagues and associates, hear a most enjoyable speaker AND earn CEUs. What more could anyone ask for?

One theme that ran through this year's conference was success and achievement. Seeing and listening to Brittany Maier share her unbelievable talent for the piano and hearing her mom Tammy share their story was an incredible experience. Our ambassador, Tom Rogan, did not leave a dry eye in the room as he shared his essay, "Story of a Stutterer" at the awards luncheon. Kelly McCorkle, Miss South Carolina, had everyone laughing, crying, and cheering as she told about struggles she faces having a learning disability. One conference attendee told me Thursday afternoon, "I don't know when I have been so emotionally moved as I have today." I hope that's the way many others felt as well.

Friday afternoon's chocolate break proved we have many "chocoholics" in our association. Even though it was a little crowded and hectic it was great fun. The silent auction successfully concluded at this time. Thank you to Suzette McCullough, Danielle Varnadoe, and Kathy Myers for their work organizing the silent auction and to everyone who contributed items for the auction. Another "first" during the afternoon break was the book signing. Authors Diane Kennedy, Jennifer Stephen, and Diane Greyerbiehl were available to sign copies of their books.

The exhibit hall was very spacious this year and full of exciting displays. Thank you to our vendors who came to be a part of our conference. Advantage Rehabilitation Services, ADHD Autism Connection, ARK Therapeutic Services, Inc., Beaufort Memorial Hospital, Cochlear Americas, Discovery Toys, Floyd & Floyd Associates, LightSpeed Technologies, NHC Healthcare, Prentke Romich Company, Rehabworks, Relaint Medical Products, Inc., SC Assistive Technology Project, Super Duper Publications, Talk Tools/Innovative Therapists International, The Speech Team, Therapeutic Interventions, Thinking Publications, USC, Usborne Books.

The University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, and Columbia College entertained alumna and friends with receptions during the conference. It was a great time to just relax and visit with former professors and old friends.

The year's conference would not have been such a success without all of you participating. Thank you for attending the conference and the feedback you gave on the conference evaluation forms. We do read the comments and take them into consideration when planning next year's conference. Look elsewhere in this issue to see responses to some of the comments from this past year. For those of you who were unable to attend, we missed you and hope you will be joining us in Hilton Head for 2004.

Speaking of next year's conference, plans are already underway. Dave Simmons, conference chair, and Karen Eagerton, co-chair, have tons of great ideas. They would welcome your suggestions and help. Believe me, until you get involved you have no idea what an undertaking planning the conference can be. It is a lot of work, a lot of fun, and a very rewarding experience. I encourage you to be not just a member, but an ACTIVE member of the association. It's a lot more fun when you are really a part of what's going on. Again, thanks for helping make the 2003 conference a gem!