

spectrum

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Spring 08

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The Times They Are a-Changin' —

Thais C. Morala—Research Audiologist, NIOSH

In the past couple of years, TV and magazine ads—instead of focusing on company products—have been more and more telling us how much they care about the environment and the larger community.

Why is that? Certainly many many factors are responsible for this expanded sense of responsibility. Of note are the Equator Principles, introduced in 2006 by 45 banks from around the world, as a benchmark for the financial industry to evaluate social and environmental issues in project financing. Besides compliance with the World Bank's Performance Standards and sector-specific Environmental, Health & Safety Guidelines, the Equator Principles call for projects requesting financial support to be categorized according to their environmental and social effect. Also since 2006, a record number of leading global companies have been voluntarily reporting their achievements on social and environmental issues (<http://www.globalreporting.org/Home>).

In the Director's Desk editorial column in the January 2008 NIOSH monthly eNews (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/enewsV5N9.html>), Dr. John Howard, Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) used recent reports by Goldman Sachs JB and *The Economist* as examples of a growing body of evidence that shows that companies "do well by being good" to their employees, as well as their communities. It is becoming increasingly clear that it makes good business sense to promote employee safety and health. Dr. Howard also discussed NIOSH's efforts to look into best practices and success stories and ultimately bolster the "business case" for the prevention of work-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths. One of the ways Dr. Howard indicated NIOSH is addressing this goal is "by developing new partnerships with outside organizations that have also engaged discussion on an integrated approach to foster a healthier and safer American workforce."

[continued on page 4](#)

in this issue

| | |
|---|----|
| presidential pEARspectives | 3 |
| Your Council at Work | 5 |
| NHCA Election Results | 6 |
| NHCA Call for Presentations | 6 |
| The Multimedia Showcase | 7 |
| 2008 Conference Award-Winning Presentations | 9 |
| Keep Your Contact Information Current | 9 |
| Auctions and Raffle | 9 |
| Oregon or Bust! Fun and Education | 10 |
| NHCA Scholarship Foundation News: 2008 Student Travel Awards | 12 |
| Crossing the Language Barrier: Concerns of a PSO* | 13 |
| Research Scholarships | 13 |
| Thank You to the Following Gold, Silver And Bronze Sponsors Who Participated in the 2008 Conference | 14 |
| Welcome New and Returning Members | 14 |

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Spectrum is available without charge to NHCA members in all categories. Anyone interested in publishing in Spectrum should contact Karen Wojdyla at the national office or David Byrne or Kevin Michael, Co-editors.

The mission of the National Hearing Conservation Association is to prevent hearing loss due to noise and other environmental factors in all sectors of society.



JOIN THE EXPERTS. GET THE EXPERTISE.

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presidential pEARspectives

Cold, snowy winter, rain, and the HOPE of Spring was all I've seen for months... it seems my only glimpse of Spring 2008 was during the few days spent in Oregon at the NHCA 33rd Annual Conference. Sunshine in Portland, not to mention a lunar eclipse, provided a spectacular welcome! Most likely this feat can be attributed to the celestial influences of our Program Chair (Susan Griest) and our Director of Education (Brian Fligor) in collaboration with the members of the 2008 Program Task Force. I continue to marvel at the individual expertise, scientific insights, adventure, competition, and friendships that were creatively woven into the fabric of the 2008 NHCA conference.

This richness of our collective experiences within NHCA would not exist without your personal membership, attendance, experience, generosity, and friendships. The colors of our accomplishments are more vibrant because of your passion; the strength of our future is greater because of your opportunistic spirits and dedication. I'd like to thank each of you individually for your commitment and support of NHCA!

As I look forward to the year ahead and the immediate future of NHCA, our potential astounds me (and maybe even overwhelms me!). We, as an association, have an extensive array of opportunities awaiting our involvement, direction, and creativity. Some of these NHCA opportunities were readily apparent during the conference:

- Grow the OSHA-NIOSH-NHCA Alliance
- Shape the NIOSH Safe-in-Sound Awards
- Refresh the fundamentals in hearing loss prevention efforts
- Advance the science
- Understand the future of hearing protector attenuation labeling
- Recognize the areas for regulatory change
- Implement new technologies and devices
- Educate our youth regarding prevention of NIHL
- Debate best-practices for the military and workplace
- Mentor and/or encourage a student member
- Collaborate with related professional organizations
- Support international visitors and their efforts to expand hearing loss prevention to other geographical regions of the world
- Impact academic programs for our related disciplines (medicine, nursing, industrial hygiene, Audiology, etc.)
- Learn from each other and share our expertise!

Additional opportunities funnel into the NHCA office and ultimately to my email inbox. There are opportunities to co-sponsor public information spots, co-sponsor the International Congress on the Biological Effects of Noise (ICBEN), co-sponsor audiology education summits, and exhibit at related professional conferences. Of course, no opportunity comes without a financial impact on the organization and



Deanna Meinke
President

as such, some opportunities are fiscally out of reach, while others require minimal financial commitment and only organizational consensus and human resources.

By far, our greatest resources are our individual members (such as you) that are leveraged to respond to public inquiries, advocate for improved hearing health policies and further our NHCA mission. The Executive Council welcomes each and all of our members to participate throughout the year to help us maximize any potential outcomes. Additional opportunities will present themselves for our future collective efforts if we can fully participate in the ones that are at NHCA's doorstep today. Opportunities breed more opportunity.

Thomas Edison revealed his practical intellect when he stated "Opportunity is missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." NHCA has much work (and fun) to be done and opportunities to be realized. Let the Executive Council members know of your interest, your skill, or your size of overalls and we'll be glad to find a place for you in the efforts to maximize our collective potential. Ultimately,

[continued on page 4](#)

you too can have one or more “Golden Lobes” in your portfolio (see photo below) by welcoming an opportunity to participate.

I look forward to serving as NHCA President in the year ahead and do so with the knowledge that the members that surround and support me in this endeavor can only make NHCA more successful in the future. Thank you for the *opportunity* to work with you and serve you through NHCA. ☺

Deanna K. Meinke



2008 NHCA Golden Lobe Awardees (Note: not any overalls in the bunch!) Photo courtesy of Jack Foreman

[continued from page 1](#)

NIOSH researchers have been actively involved with NHCA since its founding, in many capacities. Through this involvement, we have learned of companies of various sizes from various economic sectors pursuing success in hearing loss prevention through “best practices.”

So, in 2007, a partnership was established between NIOSH and NHCA to specifically create *Safe-in-Sound*, an award for Excellence and Innovation in Hearing Loss Prevention. This was accomplished through a NIOSH public health project, which is in its second year. Funding was obtained from the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) manufacturing, construction, and services economic sector councils.

The objectives of this initiative are to recognize organizations that document measurable achievements and to obtain and share leading edge and best practices information to advance opportunities for successful hearing loss prevention programs to a broader community. A description of the key elements that contributed to the award recipient’s success story will be disseminated. The distribution of publications and hits to the award website (www.safeinsound.us) will be monitored to quantify interest and evaluate the programs’ reach.

A panel of experts has developed a draft of the award criteria, rules, and eligibility guidelines for award applicants. The general structure and

application guidelines for award applicants was distributed to the NHCA membership for additional input. The expert committee also created evaluation criteria to be used for the applications as well as during site visits for finalists. These criteria are not being publicly distributed; however, overall input was encouraged. Moreover, the evaluation criteria were externally reviewed by Dr. Alice Suter of Alice Suter and Associates.

The expert committee hosted a podium session at the 33rd NHCA Annual Conference on February 22, 2008 so that attendees could become familiar with the award and provide written or verbal comments. To date, we have received some feedback by e-mail and from 24 of the feedback forms distributed at the conference. Most of the feedback received was extremely positive: 92% of the respondents indicated that they felt that the award creation will be a useful tool to encourage the improvement and success of hearing loss prevention programs; 79% thought that the Innovation Award concept was excellent; and 66% considered the Sector Award concept excellent. Several detailed comments and suggestions were offered. After analyzing the feedback the expert panel has finalized the application procedures for the 2009 awards and posted it in the *Safe-in-Sound* website (www.safeinsound.us).

We will maintain open channels of communication between the panel of experts and the hearing loss prevention community. NIOSH and NHCA will be responsible for continuously checking and updating the selection criteria for the award based on the lessons learned annually with the nomination and selection process throughout the duration of this project.

We hope to count on the NHCA membership’s help in spreading the word about the award and submitting nominations. The application due date is September 1, 2008. Applications and supporting documentation must be physically received at the NHCA business office on or before the day of application deadline (5pm MST/MDT). Electronic applications must be date/time stamped by midnight on the due date.

The first *Safe-in-Sound* awards will be presented at the 34th NHCA Annual Conference to be held in Atlanta, GA, in February 2009. NHCA and NIOSH are pleased to partner in this new initiative and look forward to sharing the stories of successful hearing loss prevention programs. ☺

Your Council at Work

February 2008 Meetings

The 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Executive Councils met in Portland during the Annual Conference. Here are some of the highlights from the meetings:

Disparaging Comments Policy

The policy which pertains to comments by presenters at the Annual Conference was developed and Theresa Schulz announced the policy at the Annual Business Meeting.

Financial Disclosure Policy

This policy is being developed for conference speakers and will be completed prior to the deadlines for the 2009 Annual Conference.

Proposal to Waive Conference Registration for Program Chair

The Council approved covering the conference registration fee and hotel room for the Program Task Force Chair. The room would come out of the complimentary allotted rooms for the conference.

Grant Application Task Force

A Grant Application Task Force is being formed to pursue grants available from organizations to cover conference speakers, hotel expenses, etc. This falls under the Program Task Force Chair and Director of Education.

Financial Audit

The Council approved a financial review for the year ending June 30, 2008 to be completed by the end of this calendar year.

Emeritus Membership Status

Emeritus Membership Status was approved by the Council for George Cook and Maurice Miller.

Financial Strategies

The secretary/treasurer was tasked with developing a proposal on handling NHCA's financial accounts.

2010 Conference Location

The Council has determined that they want to pursue Florida as the location for the 2010 conference. Staff is looking at Orlando, Miami/Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach or Cocoa Beach for appropriate properties.

Noise and Children Task Force

Tentative plans are to hold a second Children's Conference in 2009.

Director of Communications

Beth Cooper announced MemberClicks is up and running and members can process their dues renewals when they register on line for the conference. All conference proceedings will be put online rather than on a CD. 2008 Conference attendees only will be able to access the conference proceedings online.

NHCA Foundation

The Foundation has presented five travel awards to conference and given three research awards this year.

Director of Membership

Michael Santucci reported 84 first timers to the conference. The contest for members bringing new members to the conference resulted in 29 new members with conference registrations. There was a tie in both first and second place member recruiters. The Council agreed to give all four recruiters their prizes, first place winners receive free conference registration for the 2009 conference and second place winners receive 50% off of their 2009 conference registrations.

NHCA Logo

The new logo is on the web site and will be included on all new products.

Council Calendar

The Council approved an annual calendar that was prepared by Deanna Meinke. The calendar includes important dates for Council to use in administration of the organization.

New Spectrum Editor

After five years serving as co-editors of Spectrum, David Byrne and Kevin Michael have stepped down. Lee Hager agreed to take over as editor. He will begin after the Spring issue.

Noise & Health Update

A Task Force is being established to provide suggestions for formalizing the relationship between NHCA & Noise & Health.

Conference Survey

A survey is being developed and will be sent to all members requesting information for future conference planning.

American Academy of Audiology Convention

NHCA will have member representatives staffing the NHCA booth at the upcoming AAA convention.

Organizational Liaisons

Organizational liaisons will now be the responsibility of the President-Elect. A list of current and potential organizations will be developed.

NHCA ELECTION RESULTS

The results of this year's NHCA election are as follows:

President: Deanna Meinke

President-Elect: Rick Neitzel

Secretary-Treasurer: Brian Myers

Director of Education: Brian Fligor

Director of Membership:
Carol Stephenson

Member Delegate: D. Bruce Kirchner

Officers and Executive Council Members continuing in office in 2008 are:

Past President: Theresa Schulz

Director of Communication: Beth Cooper

Member Delegate: Jennifer Tufts

PSO Delegate: Tim Rink

Commercial Delegate: Renee Bessette

Associate Delegate: Pending

Appointed Student Member
Delegate: Emily Wakefield

Historian: Elliott Berger

NHCA congratulates the new Officers and Council Members! Thank you to all members who ran for office for your commitment to the organization.

NHCA Call for Presentations

34th Annual Hearing Conservation Conference
February 12 -14, 2009



Proposals are now being accepted for platform, workshop, and poster presentations for the 34th Annual Hearing Conservation Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Topics related to "the prevention of hearing loss due to noise and other environmental factors in all sectors of society" will be considered. Presentations may be applied research, scientific investigations, or practical applications of hearing loss prevention issues.

Proposals should include the title, type of presentation (platform, workshop or poster), presenter(s) name, affiliation and contact information, and a short description (150 words for platform and workshop presentations; 75 words for poster presentations). Final acceptance of proposals is determined by the Program Task Force.

Deadlines:

Platform and workshop presentations: June 16, 2008

Poster presentations: October 1, 2008

Send proposals by email with subject line "NHCA 2009 Presentation Proposal" to nhca@gwami.com, or mail to the NHCA office at 7995 E. Prentice Ave., Ste. 100, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

The program task force welcomes ideas for presenters, topics, and conference activities. Please email suggestions to the NHCA office at nhca@gwami.com.

THE MULTIMEDIA SHOWCASE

Editor's Note: At the recent NHCA 33rd Annual Hearing Conservation Conference, the Friday afternoon program included three concurrent sessions. One of the three – the Multimedia Showcase – is summarized here for those who were unable to attend. The accompanying product directory and a PDF version (without links) of the PowerPoint presentation that summarizes the products will be included in the conference proceedings (available online). Contact the NHCA Director of Communication, Beth A. Cooper, for additional information.

The Multimedia Showcase highlighted multimedia (audio, video, and software) educational products and resources that can add value to a hearing conservation program, academic course, or outreach effort. The showcase featured live and hands-on demonstrations of commercially-available tools that are relevant for use in employee hearing conservation training, CAOHC-approved OHC courses, university-level coursework, public outreach, and K-12 education. Products for the Showcase were selected from those contributed by vendors, as well as free/public-domain products offered by non-profit, educational, and government organizations and individuals. New releases as well as time-tested favorites recommended by NHCA members were included.

2008 NHCA Multimedia Showcase Featured Products

| Source | Product Name | Product Description | Media/Format | Availability | Contact |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Sensimetrics | HeLPS (Hearing Loss and Prosthesis Simulator) | Software for hearing loss simulation with interactive audio-visual speech presentations that include background noise and reverberation. Can download sample simulations from website. | CD for Windows-based computers running Windows® XP operating systems | Purchase from Sensimetrics http://sens.com/helps/ Can download sample simulations from website http://sens.com/helps/helps_intro.htm | Pat Zurek pat@sens.com |
| Sensimetrics | Preserving Your Hearing: a hearing conservation demonstration | 3-minute hearing conservation presentation aimed at middle- and high-school students demonstrates the risks of over-exposure to loud music by using speech and rock music to briefly demonstrate the effects of mild, moderate, and severe hearing loss, tinnitus and hearing aids. | 35 MB .exe file for Windows® XP/Vista | Free download http://sens.com/pyh/index.htm | Pat Zurek pat@sens.com |
| NIOSH | DOSES (Determination of Sound ExposureS) | Software program to analyze noise exposures from worker time studies and identify job tasks or locations that exhibit high noise exposure | 65 MB software program for Windows®-based systems | Will be available around September 2008 as free download from http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/products/#Software | Greg Cole GPCole@cdc.gov |
| NIOSH | Hearing Loss Simulator | Interactive software that displays a "control panel" for playing sounds while adjusting the simulated effects of noise and aging. The effects are shown visually on the frequency band control panel and sound level display screen while the user listens to the audio playback. | 27 MB .exe file for Windows® systems | Free download http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/products/product47.htm | Bob Randolph RRandolph@cdc.gov |
| NIOSH | Noise Meter | Interactive software that plays common sounds of various intensities and displays A-weighted sound levels of each. | 3 MB .exe file | Free download http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/workplacesolutions/heToolbox.html | Mark Stephenson mos9@CDC.GOV |
| NIOSH | Save Your Hearing | Interactive tool that explains the risks of hearing loss in the workplace, how the ear works, and proper use of hearing protection. | 256 MB .exe file | Free download ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/niosh/oxe/ | Mark Stephenson mos9@CDC.GOV |
| University of Wisconsin-Whitewater | Audiometric Simulator | Software application that simulates an Audiometer interface. It includes a patient response function with some variability. Must be run over a network connection. | 2 MB .exe file for Microsoft® Windows® 2000 or newer | Free download http://academics.uww.edu/witrc/services/audiometer/download.html | Scott Bradley bradleys@uww.edu |
| University of Wisconsin-Whitewater | Hearing Loss Sampler | 10-second audio clips of simulations of various types of hearing loss using speech in quiet and noise. | small .mp3 files | Free downloads http://facstaff.uww.edu/bradleys/radio/hlsimulation/ | Scott Bradley bradleys@uww.edu |
| University of Wisconsin-Whitewater | Articulation Index Calculator | On-line tool that can be used to easily create audiograms for display purposes by manipulating hearing threshold symbols with "click and drag" keystrokes. Images can then be captured and saved for various uses. Can also save webpage (complete) and run off-line. | On-line tool. | Online tool or download http://facstaff.uww.edu/bradleys/radio/articindex.html | Scott Bradley bradleys@uww.edu |

[continued on page 8](#)

2008 NHCA Multimedia Showcase Featured Products (continued)

| Source | Product Name | Product Description | Media/Format | Availability | Contact |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| University of Wisconsin-Whitewater | Interactive Internet Tools for Communication Sciences and Disorders | Presentation with SLP and hearing info, including a tour of websites that feature interactive tools. | 11 MB .pdf file or 8 MB Mac®-compatible .ppt file | Free download http://facstaff.uww.edu/bradleys/NHCA_bradley.pdf or http://facstaff.uww.edu/bradleys/louisiana/bradley.zip (.zip file contains PowerPoint® version that is Mac®-compatible, some images will not display on Windows®-based systems) | Scott Bradley bradleys@uww.edu |
| e-audiology.net | Evaluating and Protecting the Hearing of Musicians | Presentation has animated graphics and linked audio files that simulate music listening with various types of hearing loss and with expandable foam vs. musicians' earplugs. | 225 MB .zip file containing PowerPoint® presentation and linked files. | Free download http://www.e-audiology.net/NHCA/Showcase.htm | Brad Ingrao brad@ingrao.net |
| Dangerous Decibels® | <i>Dangerous Decibels® Virtual Exhibit</i> | The Virtual Exhibit is based on the Dangerous Decibels exhibit at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland, Oregon. The virtual exhibit is currently available online at http://www.dangerousdecibels.org/virtual Exhibit.cfm. | Kiosk | Will be available on CD in near future. | Linda Howarth info@dangerousdecibels.org |
| Aearo Technologies E-A-R | E-A-R Hearing Conservation DVD | 12-minute training video for noise-exposed employees | DVD video | Order (free) from Aearo customer service line (800-225-9038) by requesting SKU# 33258-00000 | Marc Santoro marc_santoro@aearo.com |
| Aearo Technologies E-A-R | Audio and Hearing Loss Demonstrations | 15-minute lecture (audio only) with embedded auditory demonstrations. | 14 MB .wma audio file | Free download http://www.e-a-r.com/hearingconservation/audio%20files/aearo100s.wma | Elliott Berger eberger@compuserve.com |
| Aearo Technologies E-A-R | Listening in Noise: The Virtues of High-Fidelity Hearing Protectors | 16-minute lecture (audio only) with embedded auditory demonstrations. | 15 MB .wma audio file | Free download http://www.e-a-r.com/hearingconservation/audio%20files/final_128.wma | Elliott Berger eberger@compuserve.com |
| NASA | Auditory Demonstrations in Acoustics and Hearing Conservation | Series of audio demonstrations that illustrate fundamental concepts in acoustics (e.g., frequency, sound level, tonal and broadband noise sources, A-weighting, octave band filtering, audiometric test frequencies, and simulated hearing loss demonstrations). Format is alternating lecture and demonstration tracks, so demonstrations may be excerpted for use elsewhere. | CD (audio only) Files are .cda format. | Request single free copy on CD via on-line request form at http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/AcousticalTest/HearingConservation/Resources/Auditory_Demonstrations1.html | Beth Cooper beth.a.cooper@nasa.gov |
| NASA | Auditory Demonstrations II: Challenges to Speech Communication and Music Listening | Auditory demonstrations that illustrate the impact of acoustical conditions and hearing loss on everyday listening situations where good speech intelligibility is desirable. Also includes recordings of several styles of music that have been modified to demonstrate auditory changes due to progressive noise-related hearing loss (included primarily for use in hearing conservation training programs). | CD (audio only). Files are approx. 1-minute .cda format. | Request single free copy on CD via on-line request form at http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/AcousticalTest/HearingConservation/Resources/Auditory_Demonstrations2.html | Beth Cooper beth.a.cooper@nasa.gov |
| NASA | Animated Auditory Demonstrations II: Challenges to Speech Communication and Music Listening | Visually animated versions of selected audio tracks from <i>Auditory Demonstrations II: Challenges in Speech Communication and Music Listening</i> . Each animation provides a visual roadmap that allows the listener to easily identify audible but subtle changes in the auditory signal, along with the numerical metrics that quantify the changing technical parameters. | CD with Windows® and Mac® versions. Animated demonstrations are 10-15 MB .wmv (or .mov for Mac) files that have been incorporated into Microsoft® PowerPoint® Presentation files or can be played as standalone files. | Request single free copy on CD via on-line request form at http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/AcousticalTest/HearingConservation/Resources/Auditory_Animations.html | Beth Cooper beth.a.cooper@nasa.gov |
| NASA | JeopEARdy | Interactive multimedia training resource for employee education, which consists of a Microsoft® PowerPoint® file (accompanied by additional linked files containing sounds, videos, and other resources) that can be used as a unique interactive "game" by hearing conservationists. This resource may be customized to meet specific needs of the audience. | CD for Windows®-based systems | Request single free copy on CD via on-line request form at http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/AcousticalTest/HearingConservation/Resources/JeopEARdy.html | Beth Cooper beth.a.cooper@nasa.gov |
| NASA | MACSUG (Manual Audiometer Computer Simulator User Gizmo) | Software program that simulates an audiometer interface for illustrating techniques and principles of manual audiometry and audiogram review. | Downloadable software application for PC running Windows® 95, Windows® 98, Windows ME®, Windows® 2000, or Windows XP®. | Register and download free at http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/AcousticalTest/HearingConservation/Resources/MACSUG.html | Beth Cooper beth.a.cooper@nasa.gov |

The NHCA Multimedia Showcase is an appropriate forum for advertising products, some of which are available commercially and were provided on request for inclusion in the Showcase. Some of the information presented during the Multimedia Showcase was provided to NHCA by product vendors. The Showcase organizer(s) do not have any financial relationship with any commercial product vendors. Neither NHCA nor Showcase organizer(s) have received compensation (other than single copies of the product being featured) from commercial product vendors or their representatives.

2008 Conference Award-Winning Presentations

Each year, NHCA Conference attendees rank the presenters using evaluation forms. The presenter(s) who receive the highest rankings are given awards that express the value that the organization places on Conference platform presentations and workshops. Each presentation is scored on relevance, content and presentation. Poster presentations are scored on organization and clarity. Please join us in giving special congratulations to the 2008 award winners.

The 2008 Outstanding Lecture Award was awarded to John Casali for his platform presentation "Hearing Protection and Hearing Enhancement in One Device: Perspective of the Soldier Whose Ears and Life Depend Upon It", co-authored by William Ahroon and Jeff Lancaster. A cash prize was awarded to John as a token of NHCA's appreciation.

The 2008 Outstanding Poster Award was awarded to Sarah Borer for her poster titled "Recreational Shooting Habits of Waterfowl Hunters", co-authored by Michael Stewart and Mark Lehman. A cash prize was awarded to Sarah as a token of NHCA's appreciation.

NHCA members understand the amount of time and effort needed to develop a well-organized presentation that clearly conveys the ideas of the author to conference attendees. We recognize and appreciate the contributions of all the 2008 conference presenters. Please join us in expressing thanks to all of the presenters. Award winners will be formally recognized at the 2009 conference in Atlanta, GA. €

KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT

It is up to each individual member to update your contact information in your profile in the Member's Only section of the NHCA website: www.hearingconservation.org.

Your user name is your first name and password is a combination of the first letter in your first name and your last name.

If you have questions or problems with the technical aspects of your membership profile, the e-list, or the database search functions, please direct them via email to the NHCA webmaster, Rohit Verma, at webmaster@hearingconservation.org, with a copy to beth.a.cooper@nasa.gov. For general membership questions, please contact the NHCA Office at info@hearingconservation.org.

Auctions and Raffle

Once again, you, as members and conference attendees came through for another successful Silent Auction, Live Auction and Raffle raising over \$7900! All the proceeds from the auctions and raffle go to the NHCA Scholarship Foundation which awards scholarships and conference travel awards to graduate students focusing on applied/practical studies in hearing loss prevention/hearing conservation at accredited institutions. A great big thank you is extended to all those who donated/purchased items at the auctions and raffle. €

2008 Auction and Raffle Donors

Deanna Meinke
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Serena Dann
Beth Cooper
NHCA
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Oregon or Bust! Fun and Education

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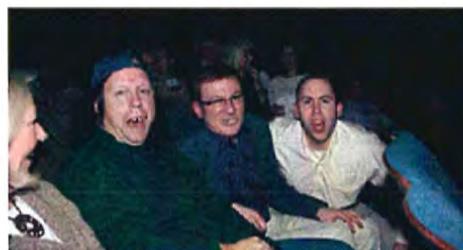
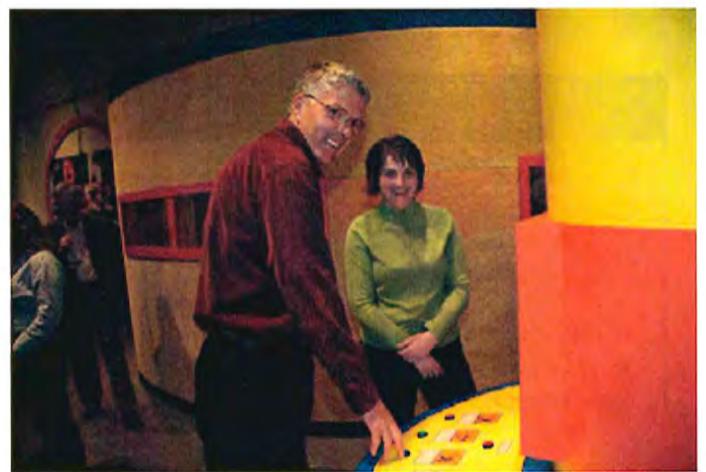
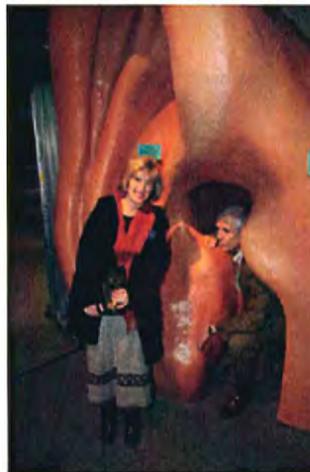
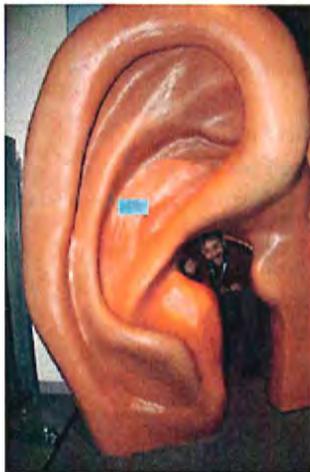


"This was one of the most enjoyable conferences ever. The geographic location and the hotel location were great!"



"Thanks for another great conference!"

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN AT OMSI



"What an honor to have spent time with the people that make things happen in HCPs. WOW. I loved being here."

"Great meeting – one of the best conferences."

OPENING REMARKS

Theresa Schulz, 2007-08 President



Susan Griest, 2008 Program Chair



NIOSH/OSHA/NHCA ALLIANCE SIGNING

Dean Ikeda, Deanna Meinke, Guner Gurtunca



Outgoing President plaque presented to Theresa Schulz by incoming president Deanna Meinke



Elliott Berger, Mark Stephenson, Alice Suter



Ioan Allen, Luncheon Speaker

"I thoroughly enjoyed this conference. I'm a new member and new to hearing conservation. I look forward to the future of this program."

AWARDS:



NHCA Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Alice Suter by Mark Stephenson and Deanna Meinke



Outstanding Hearing Conservationist Award presented to Thais Morata by William Murphy and Deanna Meinke



Media Award presented to Ben Jackson. Honorable mention to AAA and NPR.



Michael Beall Threadgill Award presented to Ted Madison by Brian Myers and Deanna Meinke

FUN AND EDUCATION AT THE CONFERENCE



"The last section on common questions/problems was excellent"

NHCA Scholarship Foundation News: 2008 STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

By Susan Megerson

The NHCA Scholarship Foundation is now in its sixth year of providing the Student Travel Award (STA), a program that supports deserving graduate students who wish to attend NHCA's annual conference. Each year, the program's popularity grows, and 2008 brought the highest number of applications yet.

The STA is available to students who are actively pursuing a degree in a discipline related to hearing conservation and who are enrolled at least half-time in an accredited educational institution. Interested students completed an application and sent a letter of recommendation. Applications were then evaluated by the Scholarship Foundation review committee: **John Casali, Jim Jerome, James Lankford, Vern Larson, and Mary McDaniel.**

Due to the generous contributions of NHCA members and our 2008 program sponsors, the NHCA Scholarship Foundation awarded STAs to five outstanding students who are focusing their research and/or clinical efforts on hearing loss prevention. Recipients were provided free conference and workshop registration, and partial reimbursement of travel expenses. Awardees were also treated to a special luncheon with Scholarship Foundation board members, NHCA officers, and representatives from our program sponsors.

The 2008 Student Travel Award recipients are:

Marla Bruce

U. North Texas, 2nd year AuD program
Advisor: Kamakshi Gopal, PhD
Poster: "Evaluation of Hearing Protectors in a College Music School Setting" with Scott Lanford & Dr. Kris Chesky

Scott Lanford

U. North Texas, 2nd year AuD program
Advisor: Kamakshi Gopal, PhD
Poster: "Evaluation of Hearing Protectors in a College Music School Setting" with Marla Bruce & Dr. Kris Chesky

Kevin Liebe

Western Michigan U., 3rd year AuD program
Advisor: Greg Flamme, PhD
Poster: "Acoustic Characteristics and Estimates of Risk from Firecracker Impulses" with Dr. Greg Flamme

Rick Neitzel

U. Washington, 3rd year PhD program (environmental & occupational health)
Advisor: Noah Seixus, PhD
Workshop Presentation: "Hearing Loss Prevention: The Basics of Noise Measurement" and Platform Presentation: "Development and Pilot Test of A New Hearing Conservation Training Program for the Construction Industry"

Gayla Poling

Ohio State U., 2nd year PhD program (audiology)
Advisor: Larry Ferh, PhD



Pictured left-to-right; back row: James Lankford (President); Cory Portnuff (2007 STA); Darrin Worthington (2007 STA); Scott Lanford (2008 STA); Kevin Liebe (2008 STA); Rick Neitzel (2008 STA). Front row: Susan Megerson (STA Coordinator); Marla Bruce (2008 STA); Kristen Casto (2007 STA); Gayla Poling (2008 STA).

Due to weather-related travel problems last year, a few of our 2007 STA recipients were unable to attend the Savannah conference. Fortunately, **Cory Portnuff** and **Darrin Worthington** were able to attend the 2008 conference and enjoyed their delayed awards in Portland. Also joining us at this year's conference and Scholarship Foundation awards luncheon was **Kristen Casto**, a 2007 recipient of the Foundation's Student Research Award.

As always, our very special thanks go to the generous sponsors who make this program possible. Our sponsors for the 2008 STA program are:

Gold Sponsor (donation of \$1000 or more)
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James and Vera Lankford

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John Casali
Custom Protect Ear
Enviromed
Quest Technologies
Workplace Hearing

Crossing the Language Barrier: Concerns of a PSO* —

By Matthew P. King, OHC—The Hearing Advantage, PC

As an Occupational Hearing Conservationist, I have experienced many obstacles that required special effort to overcome, but none have required as much time or provided more frustration than a language barrier between our staff and a patient. We all know that many times we arrive on site to discover that several employees of the client we are there to service have no English skills, either written or spoken. So we use aids - many of our software programs are capable of providing test instructions in several languages - but what do we do with languages that it can't provide a translation for? How do we accomplish taking an accurate medical history from the employee?

I have discovered that there is often a simple answer to these difficult questions: involve the community. Due to tough restrictions on legal immigration to this country, many of the patients at a site are often political refugees who live in refugee halls, centers, or dorm facilities awaiting permanent residency status or immigration to Canada. Many of our clients who hire these refugees utilize translators from the facility where they live. Often times it is as simple as asking in

advance if the plant has workers who speak languages that you do not have a translation for and they will call the facility to schedule an on-site translator during the testing of these patients.

This process allows us to obtain an accurate medical history and assures the client that the test was a true representation of the patient's hearing, and was not affected by the language barrier. I encourage you to take this message to heart and ask your clients to involve the immigrant community in their testing program. Their support and participation will help you to provide the level of service and the assurance of accuracy we all desire.

Below is a list of the languages where I have found this method to be helpful:

Farsi, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, Russian, Mende (many dialects depending on nation of origin), Chinese

*Professional Service Organization (Hearing Conservation Service Provider)

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

National Hearing Conservation Association Scholarship Foundation

In the Fall of 2008 the National Hearing Conservation Association Scholarship Foundation will award two \$1500 scholarships to undergraduate or graduate students focusing on applied/practical studies in hearing loss prevention/hearing conservation at regionally accredited U.S. institutions. These awards for the academic year 2008-2009 are designed to assist with student research studies such as special projects, theses or dissertations relating to hearing loss prevention/hearing conservation.

Students interested in these scholarships may contact the NHCA office (303.224.9022) or visit the NHCA website for more information about the award and to download the application package: http://www.hearingconservation.org/conf_awardsScholarshipsContest.html. The completed student application, official transcript(s), and two letters of recommendation must be received in the NHCA office by July 7, 2008.

Questions can be directed to

James E. Lankford, Ph.D., President, NHCA Scholarship Foundation
7995 E. Prentice Ave., Ste. 100
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
303.224.9022 or nhca@gwami.com
www.hearingconservation.org

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