



### WORDS FROM CEO Brett Bachmann



To quote L.M. Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables – "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." The changing color of the leaves marks the end of another season and fall is in full swing. We are all abuzz with fun-filled activities for our deaf and hard of hearing students like our field trips to Kidstra, sponsored by the Louisville Orchestra and to Gallrein Farms this month. October is **National Audiology Awareness Month** and HHI congratulates all of our audiology professionals. We couldn't do what we do without each and every one of you!

I also extend a warm welcome to three new teaching assistants – Mary, Litika and Lauren who are busy helping our HHLA teachers keep things in order as we all work to shape the minds and ideas of our students.

HHLA is proud to be selected by The Center on Literacy and Deafness as an exclusive site to participate in a Foundation for Literacy Curriculum Study for deaf and hard of hearing children ages 3-5 years. (Read the full story below.) And, our Research Department, in conjunction with The University of Louisville, continues to be forward-thinking and focused on new and innovative therapies and treatments for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Thanks to those of you who supported HHLA in this year's Give Local Louisville campaign, sponsored by the Community Foundation. This city is overflowing with a heart-warming, philanthropic spirit and I'm happy to be a recipient of its generosity. Finally, I invite you to participate in our fundraising efforts throughout the year. We are anxiously anticipating this month's Butterflies in Motion luncheon on Thursday, October 20 at noon at the historic Brown Hotel where we see creativity in movies and remember one of our finest volunteers, Sug Susterman. For the second year, this event is sold out and I can't wait to see the movie-themes and festivities. For more information on any of our events, or to schedule a tour of our offices, contact HHI at 502.584.3573.

I give my personal gratitude to you — our many, Butterfly Society Members, donors, friends, staff, teachers, families and patients for your generous support. We exist because you do. As always I thank you for making my job a special one in a very special place!

Brett Bachmann – CEO of Heuser Hearing Institute

### HHLA GETS SELECTIVE DISTINCTION

Heuser Hearing & Language Academy (HHLA) is one of the exclusive sites to be hand-picked by the Center on Literacy and Deafness to participate in a Foundation for Literacy curriculum study. Each chosen site can participate for two years and receives the Literacy curriculum. The curriculum has been tested for 8 years and shows that children with hearing loss, ages 3-5, have made gains in the following categories: phonological awareness, alphabetic knowledge, vocabulary, and story comprehension. Their gains have been an average of 10 standard points!

We are excited to implement the new curriculum and learn how to fill the literacy gap between children with hearing loss and their hearing peers.

### UNTREATED HEARING LOSS MAY LEAD TO DEPRESSION

Those suffering from the debilitating effects of hearing loss may be at risk for additional health woes, according to a study by the National Council on Aging (NCOA). Those over the age of 50 are more likely to experience depression and its related symptoms, including anxiety, anger, frustration, paranoia and emotional instability. This correlation between hearing loss and depression was corroborated by studies done in Italy and Australia.

Additionally, those who suffer from hearing loss are less likely to participate in social activities, leading to isolation and worsening the situation. Depression can lead to more serious symptoms, and because it affects an estimated 1 in 12 Americans, it's important to understand the dangers faced by those with hearing loss and respond effectively.

The answer may be as simple as wearing and using hearing devices. Researchers at the Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics found that every single patient who wore hearing devices showed solid improvements in psychosocial and cognitive conditions in just three months.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association has established guidelines for determining when an individual should seek a hearing evaluation. Signs to look for include:

- Difficulty understanding speech, especially when background noise is present.
- The individual isolates him or herself from social gatherings and public situations.
- They watch television or listen to music at a much louder volume than normal.
- They often ask people to repeat themselves.

Because mental health affects so many other facets of an otherwise healthy lifestyle, it's important to encourage loved ones suffering from depression to seek treatment. Even mild forms of hearing loss can lead to an increased risk of negative emotional experiences. The sooner these are discovered, the better the odds of successful treatment.

### MEET STEPHEN MILES



Meet Stephen Miles, former Pro stock national motorcycle drag racing champion who turned pro at the age of 16, Louisville native – patient at Heuser Hearing Institute.

Stephen, a graduate of Seneca High School, won his first national championship – The American Motorcycle Drag Bike Championship in 1982 and 1984 and has competed all across the country.

Stephen came to Heuser after an injury in 2003. His injury was not on his bike, but on a ladder at home while installing a bird feeder, falling and hitting his head. After going to a national motorbike event, he didn't feel quite the same and knew something was wrong. He spent five years talking to specialists all over the country, trying to get an answer to his pain and discomfort. Finally, he was advised by a country doctor just outside of Louisville who told him to "go get your ears checked at Heuser Hearing."

"It was the best advice I ever got," says Stephen. He's been coming to HHI for almost six years. "I was diagnosed in 30 minutes," he adds. Though no instant fix, after 7 or 8 months, he could ride a bit and is now able to get back to riding in the motorcycle community. He's had lots of concussions, but the HHI diagnosis revealed he simply had a balance issue. "I still have to be careful, but Heuser has helped my issue become manageable," adds Stephen.

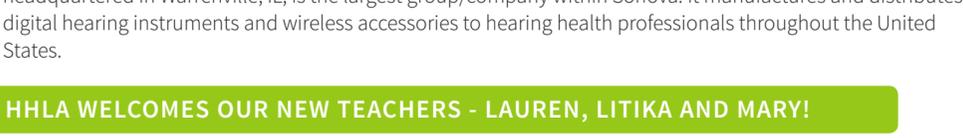
Stephen can now compete in land speed racing on 650cc motorcycles. "I was happy to get back to the point of simply riding motorcycles," says Stephen. Now he's semi-retired – again – and works at Yamaha dealership in town- part-time while enjoying his family. He has been married for 25 years and has one step-daughter and a grandson.

### NEW RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH SONOVA

The Heuser Hearing Institute is excited to announce a new research partnership with hearing aid manufacturer Sonova. The partnership will support a project that develops and evaluates innovative hearing aid processing strategies for hearing-impaired listeners. This project is a collaboration between Dr. Pavel Zahorik, Heuser's endowed research professor, and a signal processing researcher at Sonova, Dr. Olaf Strelcyk. To facilitate the project and further Heuser's research mission, Sonova has provided funding for a full-time research audiologist to be employed by and work at Heuser. We are excited for the project to begin, and look forward to providing updates in future newsletters.

Sonova Holding AG, headquartered in Staefa, Switzerland, is the leading manufacturer of innovative hearing care solutions worldwide. The group operates through its core business brands - Phonak, Unitron, Advanced Bionics and Connect Hearing - and offers its customers one of the most comprehensive product portfolios in the industry – from hearing aids to cochlear implants to wireless communication solutions. Phonak LLC, headquartered in Warrenville, IL, is the largest group/company within Sonova. It manufactures and distributes digital hearing instruments and wireless accessories to hearing health professionals throughout the United States.

### HHLA WELCOMES OUR NEW TEACHERS - LAUREN, LITIKA AND MARY!



### HEUSER EVENTS

- **Kidstra Field Trip**  
sponsored by Louisville Orchestra  
October 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Butterfly Society**  
**Butterflies in Motion Luncheon**  
October 20<sup>th</sup> 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Brown Hotel
- **Galrein Farms Pumpkin Patch Field Trip**  
October 26<sup>th</sup> | Galrein Farms
- **Sound Beginnings Breakfast**  
November 15<sup>th</sup> 8am | Downtown Campus
- **Nutcracker Field Trip**  
sponsored by The Louisville Ballet  
December 15<sup>th</sup>



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