



# Heuser Hearing Institute

## Heuser Hearing & Language Academy



### WORDS FROM CEO Brett Bachmann



Love is in the air at Heuser! Our classrooms are buzzing with activity! One of the things I'm most excited about are our new programs and events that encourage greater synergy between parents, the school and the teachers. There are several definitions of the word "synergy." According to the dictionary, "synergy" means "cooperation," or "working together." Every day in our classrooms the synergy continues in our Hearing Ears Program where deaf and hard of hearing students are side-by-side in classroom settings with their hearing peers. The learning and sharing is amazing as miracles are happening here at Heuser!

On February 2 we will visit Churchill Downs Museum where our students will have a private showing of the new 4-D film and be treated to a tour and petting of a real live race horse. Afterwards, they will perform at The Fund for the Arts kickoff – the HHLA kids will dance along with our friends from The Louisville Ballet to the Beatles' song *Octopus's Garden*.

We are inviting our parents for a special presentation from Med-El on February 4 that focuses on self-awareness. The students have made self-portraits to present to their families with prizes awarded to each child for their accomplishment. Parents are invited to celebrate their child and Med-El will award the art therapy program for teacher supplies. Just last week, I was fortunate to be the substitute "Special Guy" for one of the students during our Special Guys Day – to celebrate special guys in our children's lives. And since I'm not a dad yet, it's an amazing feeling to be a little part of something so connected – the bond was heartwarming.

And speaking of hearts – we will celebrate Valentine's Day here on our campus on Thursday, February 12 with sweets, games and treats. My thanks to The Women's Club of Louisville for hosting this special Valentine's Day party for our students.

So many activities, so little time, in the shortest month of the year! We continue to enjoy the hustle and bustle and rhythm of our school – and we invite you to share in the love!

*-Brett*



### FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL HEALTH MONTH

#### Risk Factors for Heart Disease Shared by Patients with Hearing Loss:

- Low frequency hearing loss
- Obesity
- High cholesterol
- Diabetes
- High sedentary lifestyle

#### Ways to Decrease Your Risk:

- Maintain a healthy lifestyle and diet
- Active lifestyle
- Healthy blood pressure
- Nutrient rich diet

Be sure to keep both your ears and heart healthy by getting your hearing tested! Seek your local audiologist to learn more about how healthy hearing is crucial to your overall well-being!

### HHLA PROFILE Cheryl Donaldson

#### Director of Early Parent-Infant Program and HHLA Speech



I joined HHLA (then Louisville Deaf Oral School) as a speech-language pathologist in January 1987. At that time I served children who were on the waiting list for Parent/Infant Services, and in the fall I became a classroom teacher. Over the last 29 years, I've been a therapist, teacher, coordinator and pretty much whatever else I could do to serve children with hearing loss and their families.

I completed my undergraduate training at Vanderbilt University and my graduate training at the University of Louisville. As a sophomore, I was introduced to the field of speech and hearing and was immediately hooked to what I felt was my calling.

Working here has always made me feel like being with family. The teachers, audiologists and other professionals are passionate about their work and are life-long learners about methods and strategies that produce successful results. There is always something new to learn and every child that I work with teaches me more than I teach them. Whenever I have the opportunity to speak to speech-pathology or audiology students, I always encourage them to find a place they love to work and stay there!

Over the years, technological changes have vastly improved the possible outcomes for children and adults with hearing loss. Earlier devices were behind-the-ear hearing aids with many limitations to the benefits of their use. Early cochlear implant speech processors were about the size of a deck of cards and had to be worn in a pouch or pocket. Now, hearing aids and implant devices are smaller, more discrete with amazing capabilities and provide critical benefits that enable people to learn to listen, talk, use the phone and enjoy other wireless devices. Another big change has been the emphasis on early identification, early amplification and early intervention. Research shows that babies who are identified early, fitted with hearing aids early and provided with early intervention services, can develop language skills like those of their normal-hearing peers. We see that every day here at HHLA and it is incredibly exciting!

There are still many quarrels and disagreements about the education of deaf and hard of hearing children in Kentucky as well as nationwide. If I could have one wish for them, it would be for the decisions of all families and individuals to be honored and valued, regardless of whether it involves following the path of listening and spoken language or the use of a visual communication system like sign language. Every child and individual has a story to tell and that story involves success!

### WEDNESDAYS WITH Arun K. Gadre

#### HHI Professor of Otolaryngology & Neurotology

Not only is Dr. Gadre, Medical Director at HHI, but he is Professor of Otolaryngology at The University of Louisville. He is a board certified Otolaryngologist with expertise in Otolaryngology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery. His interests include Cochlear Implantation, bone anchored hearing aids, surgery for chronic otitis media and Cholesteatoma, Otosclerosis and surgery for vertigo.

Dr. Gadre completed a research fellowship in Otolaryngology at the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles and was later appointed the Eleanor Naylor Dana Laser Research Fellow at The Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts. He then completed a six-year residency at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. Following his residency, he went on to complete an accredited two-year fellowship in Otolaryngology and Neurotology at The New York University Medical Center and Tisch Hospital in Manhattan.

He is a Diplomate of The American Board of Otolaryngology. He sees patients at the downtown location of Heuser Hearing Institute at 117 E. Kentucky Street. Call 502.584.3573 for an appointment.



### HEUSER NEWS

- ▶ On Thursday, February 4, Christine Pett from MED El will present a \$500 award to HHLA benefitting the art therapy program for participation in their self-portrait contest. The ceremony will take place at HHLA at 3:00 p.m. HHLA students have painted these self-portraits to present to their families. Each child will receive a ribbon and a certificate for their participation. Families are invited and the event will be followed by a cookie reception.



*Celebrating 100 Days of HHLA*

**For more information, contact Debbie Woods at 502.636.2084.**

- ▶ Be sure to check out our new website at [www.thehearinginstitute.org](http://www.thehearinginstitute.org).

### HEUSER EVENTS

**February 14, 2016**  
HHLA Valentine's Party  
hosted by The Women's Club of Louisville  
2:30 p.m. - Downtown campus

**March 25, 2016**  
Easter Egg Hunt  
hosted by Young Women's Club of Louisville  
(TBA)

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